

# BRUNSWICK COUNTY COURTHOUSE: PHYSICAL ASSESSMENT

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*PREPARED FOR:*

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

*AND*

Brunswick County

*PREPARED BY:*

William and Mary Center for Archaeological Research

*AND*

Mesick, Cohen, Wilson, Baker – Architects



# Brunswick County Courthouse: Physical Assessment

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WMCAR Project No. 09-18

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# 1: Introduction

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The physical assessment of the historic Brunswick County Courthouse presented in this document is part of a study sponsored by Brunswick County (the County) and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR). Following the County's application for a VDHR Survey and Planning Cost-Share Program Grant in 2008, VDHR and the County entered a cost-share agreement to fund (1) preparation of a physical conditions assessment report with recommendations for rehabilitation of the 1854 Brunswick County Courthouse building and (2) update of the existing 1974 National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and Virginia Landmarks Register (VLR) nomination for Brunswick County Courthouse Square (VDHR identification number 251-0001) in Lawrenceville. This study was envisioned as a first step toward rehabilitation of the Courthouse Square's buildings and promoting this historic resource as a source of community pride.

In 2009, the William and Mary Center for Archaeological Research (WMCAR) and its subconsultant Mesick, Cohen, Wilson, Baker – Architects (MCWB) were engaged to perform this study. The WMCAR prepared the nomination update (see Appendix B), while MCWB conducted the physical assessment and prepared architectural drawings (Appendix A). This report was authored by Mark R. Wenger of MCWB; David Lewes of WMCAR contributed to the first chapter and the first two sections of the second chapter.

In addition to the late Greek Revival courthouse, built in 1854, the Courthouse Square includes a clerk's office (built in 1893), a

Confederate war memorial (1911), a Colonial Revival library (now a museum) (1941), and a large new Colonial Revival courthouse (1997). Substantial additions were made to the 1854 courthouse and the clerk's office in the 1920s and 1930s. The square also may include archaeological deposits associated with an early jail and an earlier courthouse built in 1784 in the vicinity of the library/museum. The Brunswick County Courthouse Square was listed in the NRHP and the VLR in 1974, and the courthouse building underwent rehabilitation the following year.

This report presents the results of a physical survey of the old Brunswick County Courthouse (1854) and its later additions. The document is structured to serve four important goals:

- Identify and eliminate safety hazards.
- Arrest ongoing deterioration.
- Render the building suitable for administrative use.
- Act with concern for the historical importance of the 1854 building.

In the pursuit of these objectives, the report evaluates this building in two major aspects:

- Physical History
- Physical Condition

On the basis of these evaluations, the report presents Recommendations for Rehabilitation of the entire structure, together with additional Restoration Recommendations for incremental and partial restoration of the original, 1854 building.

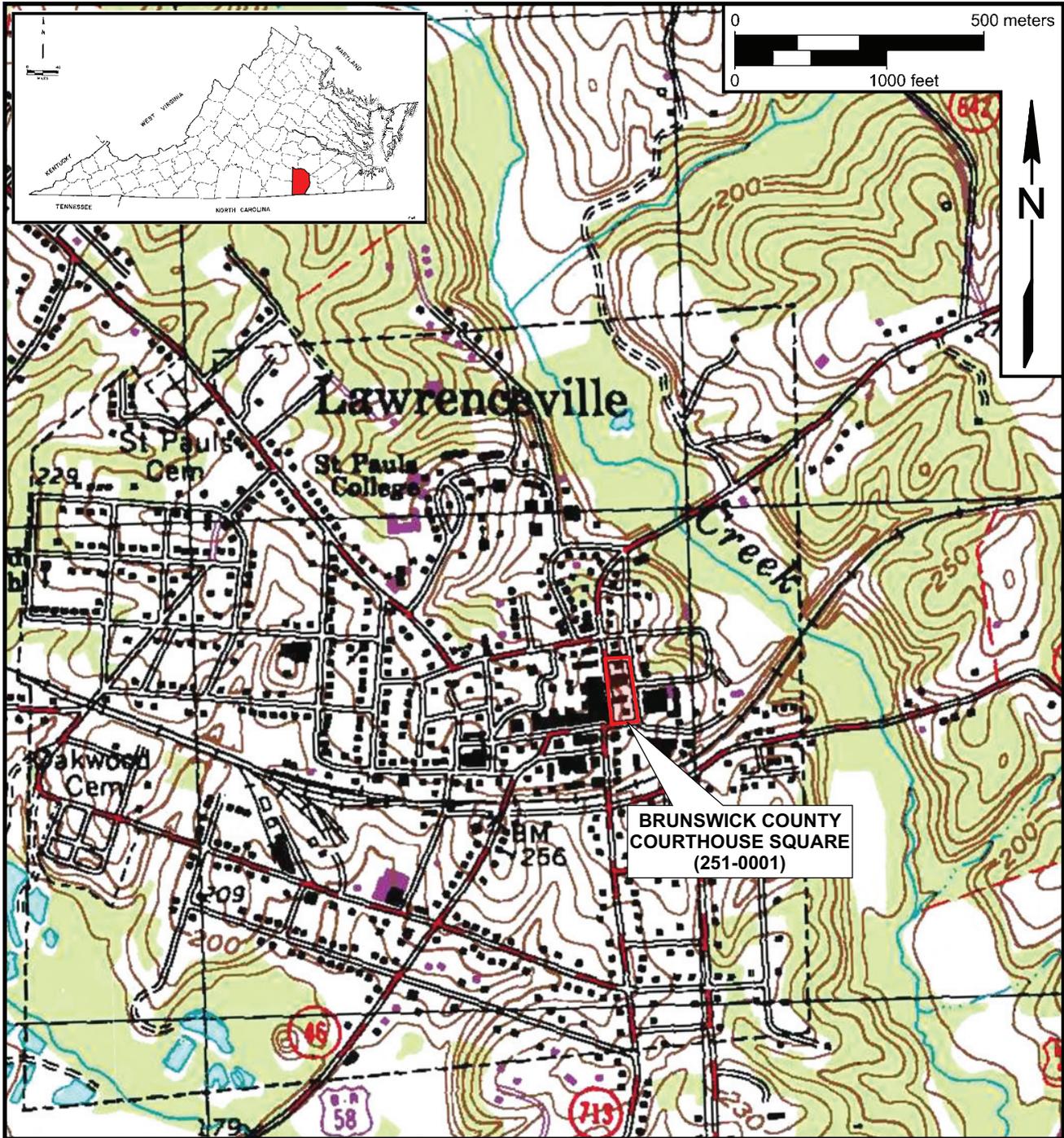


Figure 1. Location of the study area (U.S. Geological Survey).

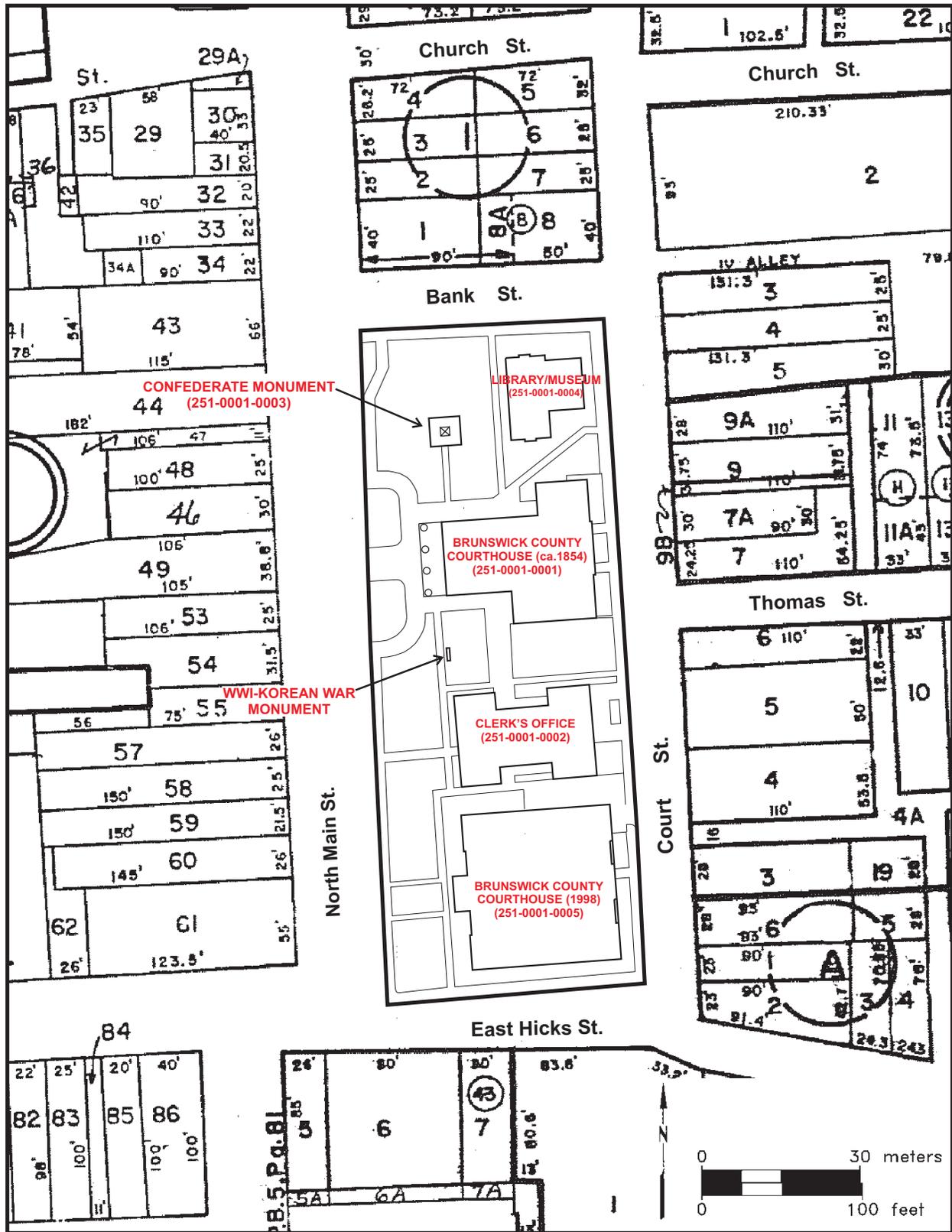


Figure 2. Site plan of Brunswick County Courthouse Square (251-0001).



## 2: Historical Background

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### *ORIGINS OF BRUNSWICK COUNTY*

Unlike most of the Virginia counties established in the eighteenth century, Brunswick was not formed organically in response to growing settlement. Instead, the colonial government created the county as an incentive to draw settlers westward and populate the frontier. After establishing a settlement at New Orleans in 1718, the French built a series of forts between the mouth of the Mississippi and Quebec. Two years later, Governor Alexander Spotswood encouraged English settlement beyond the fall line as a buffer against potential attacks from the French and their Indian allies. The House of Burgesses responded by establishing Spotsylvania and Brunswick counties on December 23, 1720 (Gaines 1970:37–38). The vast new county of Brunswick (named for a German province [Braunschweig] inherited by King George I) generally extended westward from the fall lines of major rivers near present Emporia toward the Blue Ridge and beyond. To the north, the county was bounded by the Nottoway River; the southern boundary was established in 1728 with William Byrd’s survey of the dividing line between Virginia and North Carolina. The eastern portion of the new county acquired portions from old Surry, Isle of Wight, and Prince George counties. Also included within Brunswick were present Lunenburg and Greensville counties (Neale et al. 1999:41).

Provision for the new county by the Treasurer of the Colony included funds to supply a citizen militia with firearms and ammunition. An additional allocation of £500 was for building a church, courthouse, prison, pillory, and stocks. By

1730 a courthouse and jail had been built between present-day Cochran and Alberta (about 15 miles northwest of Lawrenceville), but settlers of the new county of Brunswick continued to attend court in neighboring Prince George County as they had for the last decade. Without any justices to sit at their own court, Brunswick’s residents could only settle small administrative matters in their own county (Neale et al. 1999:41–42; Orgain 1990).

The county court continued to be moved following reconfigurations of county boundaries. “In 1746, after deciding that they would pattern their new buildings after those in Prince George County, Brunswick magistrates ordered that the courthouse and prison be constructed of wood rather than brick in order to reduce cost, perhaps anticipating that the seat would be moved again within a few years” (Lounsbury 2005:182; Brunswick County Records [BCR] Order Book [OB] 1744–48:22–23, 6/27/1745). This frame courthouse was built by Sterling Clack on land that he donated to the county near present Edgerton (Turnbull 1977:3).

### *BRUNSWICK COUNTY COURTHOUSE*

#### *SQUARE AND TOWN OF LAWRENCEVILLE*

With the formation of Greensville County from the eastern portion of Brunswick County in 1781, it became necessary to find a site for a new courthouse. Located near the boundary of the two counties, the existing courthouse on Sterling Clack’s property lay too far east of the county’s center. As was typical of Virginia’s

courthouses, the site on Jones Williams' land in present Lawrenceville was chosen as a "more central" location in 1783 (Turnbull 1977:3). As architectural historian Carl Lounsbury (2005:54) has noted, "This method of selection often meant constructing civic structures in the middle of nowhere, at a place that was equidistant from all corners of the county."

Landowners such as Williams were quite willing to donate land, and in this case invest in the infrastructure of the court, because they recognized that court business would attract commerce to their lonely plantations. In 1783 Williams agreed that he would "immediately build a prison and stock and pillory, to be done by the next term of Court, and to fix his house for the Court to sit in, until he could complete the courthouse, which was to be done within two years" (Turnbull 1977:3). In fact, already by 1784, Williams had erected a 44-by-24-foot wooden building with 14-foot pitch and brick chimney (Lounsbury 2005:340). The courthouse must have been well built, as half a century later an atlas entry described it as "handsome" (Martin 1835:133).

An 1832 plat depicts the location of the eighteenth-century courthouse along with other no longer extant buildings on the square (Figure 3). Near the center of the north end of the square, the courthouse may have stood between the present footprints of the library/museum and Confederate monument. On Directly to the west, adjacent to Main Street, was the only commercial building on the square—a store owned by Lewis McIndoe. Across open ground with scattered trees, a small clerk's office stood just north of the later Greek Revival court building. It is interesting to note that archaeological remains of these two buildings could remain in these areas of apparently minor ground disturbance. Another small private building, the office of "Lawyer Meade" was allowed on the public land of the green, along Court Street where the addition to the 1854 Courthouse now

stands. Finally, an early jail stood in the far south-east corner of the square, a location that was used for a late nineteenth-century jail with a twentieth-century addition until it was demolished to make room for the new courthouse in 1998 (Neale et al. 1999:endpapers).

In 1814 the town of Lawrenceville was created through an Act of the General Assembly. Peggy Williams was ordered to lay out town lots on 20 acres of land she owned around the courthouse green. Origins of the town's name are variously attributed to a famous racehorse named Lawrence or to Capt. James Lawrence, a naval hero of the War of 1812 (Bell and Heartwell 1957:43; Neale et al. 1999:124).

Business from court days had made the area around the courthouse an attractive place for merchants. However, Lawrenceville remained a modest-sized community through most of the nineteenth century, dependent on commerce from county residents attending court days and serving as a local market for the surrounding agricultural areas. In his 1835 *Gazetteer*, Joseph Martin described Lawrenceville as a "beautiful and wealthy little upland village." In addition to the court buildings described above, the community had "an elegant masonic hall, and an Episcopal church, 25 neat dwelling houses, 1 common school, 1 temperance and 1 missionary society, 4 mercantile stores, 2 taverns, 2 tanyards, 1 saddler, 1 boot and shoe factory, 2 tailors, and 3 smith-shops." As could be expected in a court town, the population of 350 included four attorneys; there was also one physician (Martin 1835:133).

On April 25, 1853, the county justices resolved to "consider the propriety of building a new courthouse and clerk's office." A commission composed of John E. Shell, E. R. Turnbull, Robert Kirkland, J. A. Riddick, and R. D. Turnbull was charged with the responsibility of providing suitable plans by the next court session. After the report (not recorded) was made a month later, the justices decided to move forward and advertise the proj-

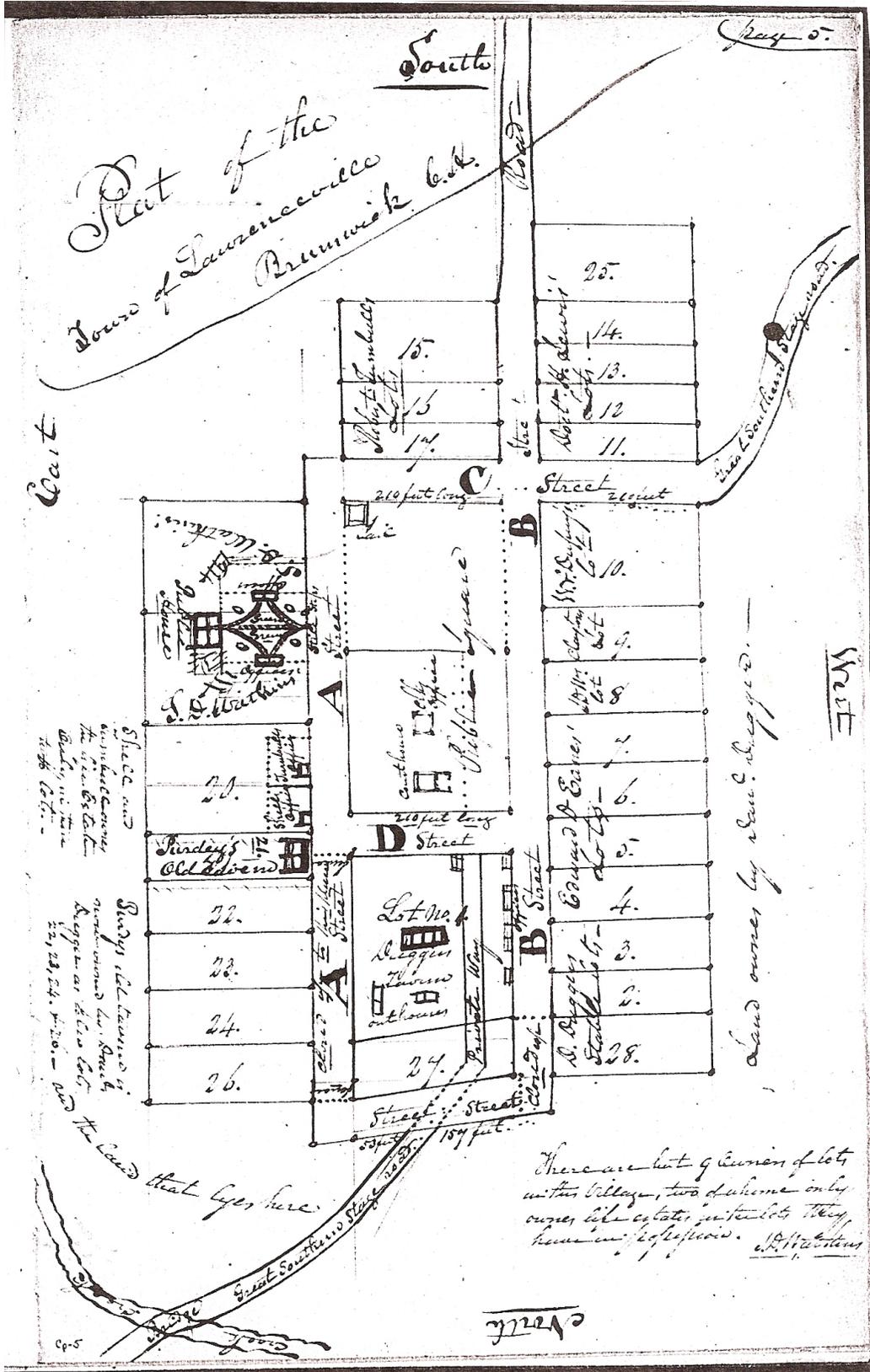


Figure 3. Plat showing Court House Square in 1832 (Watkins 1832).

ect. In 1854, two of the commissioners, county clerk Edward R. Turnbull and Robert Kirkland, were awarded the \$7,000 contract (BCR OB 38:57, 60).

The justices must have had high aspirations for the new building, for they also authorized the commissioners to visit the Mecklenburg Courthouse in Boydton (BCR OB 38:60). Completed a decade earlier, this building was modeled closely on Thomas Jefferson's Capitol Building (1827) in Richmond, the archetype of the temple form in Virginia's public buildings (Peters and Peters 1995:79). Ultimately, inspiration for the Capitol came from the Maison Carrée, a Roman temple in the south of France which Jefferson deemed "the most perfect model existing of what may be called Cubic architecture" (Lounsbury 2005:127). While the Brunswick builders did not achieve as refined an effect as found in the Mecklenburg Courthouse, with its hexastyle portico of Ionic columns, they followed the temple form and realized a Doric interpretation of the building and its archetype. Built in 1854, the Brunswick Courthouse was the last of Virginia's county courthouses in the "Temple Revival" style (Peters and Peters 1995:98) (Figure 4).

On December 25, 1854, the justices ordered that as soon as the courthouse was "received" the clerk should move the records into the two southern rooms on the first floor of the new building (BCR OB 38:117). The records would have been safer from fire in the new masonry building than in the little frame office that stood near the north side of the courthouse until the early twentieth century (Bobby Conner, personal communication 2009).

Although Lawrenceville had grown by the time of the Civil War, it still gave visitors the impression of a picturesque little village. In May 1864, a reporter for the *New York Herald* noted that Lawrenceville was considered to be "the prettiest place in Virginia." Nevertheless, despite its out-of-the-way appearance, it attracted the attention of Union columns passing through the Southside.

The *Herald* reported "an immense amount of rebel property destroyed here" (Brady 1864). An official report by an officer of the 11th Pennsylvania Cavalry noted that about 125 sacks of salt had been found in an outbuilding of the courthouse and destroyed (United States War Department 1880–1901 [OR] Ser. 1, Vol. 36, Pt. 2:186).

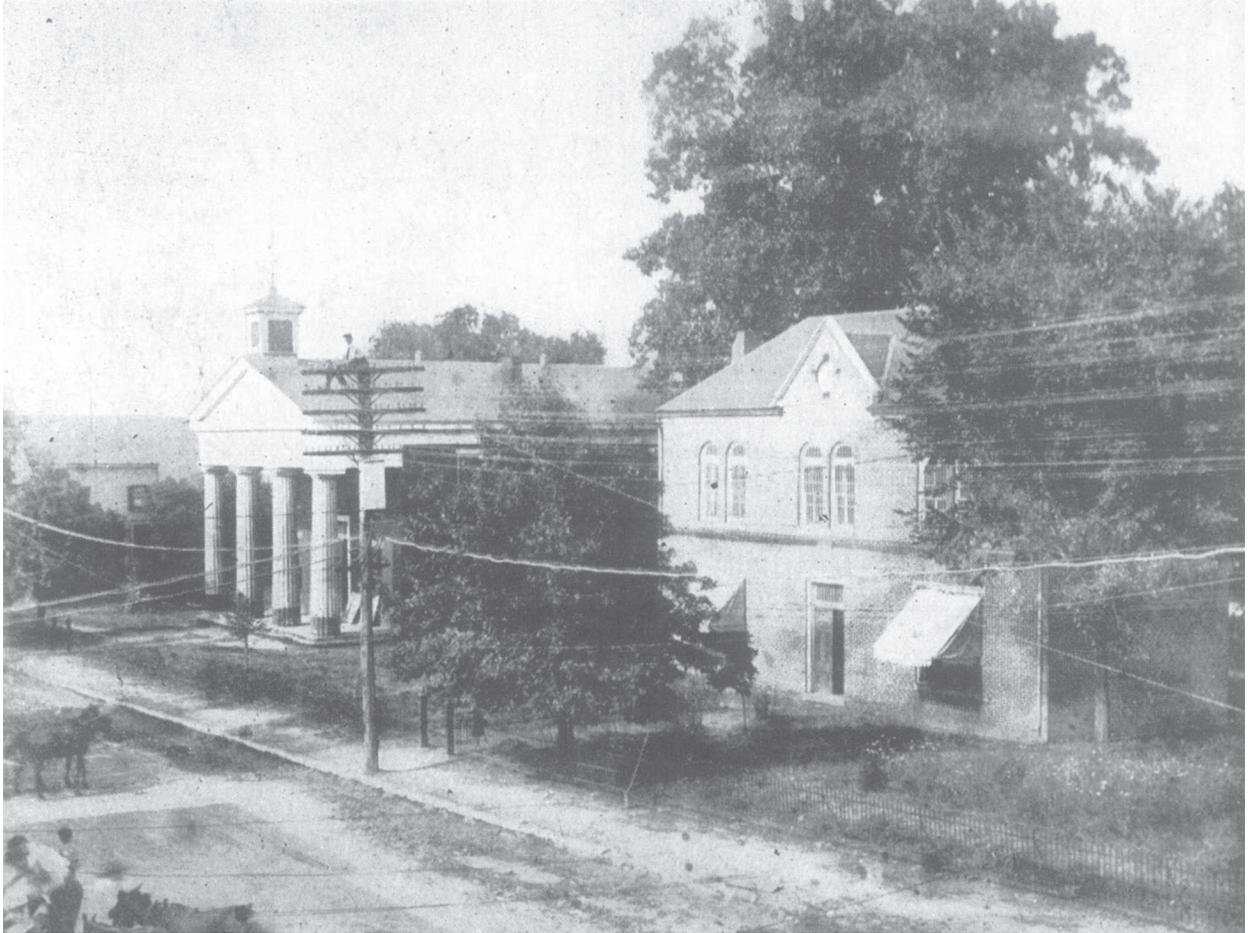
Despite these depredations, the court records escaped from the war intact. According to local tradition, one of Sheridan's officers, who was a Freemason, restrained his men from vandalizing the courthouse when he recognized a Masonic apron that clerk E. R. Turnbull had spread across the court books (Peters and Peters 1995:100).

By 1874, the town of Lawrenceville had grown enough to be officially incorporated. Nevertheless, a resident of that period, when interviewed in the twentieth century, remembered Lawrenceville as a "very small village consisting of a courthouse, a few small stores, two blacksmith shops, a shoe maker's shop and several dwellings" (Neblett 1999).

During the next decade the town remained small, but would soon benefit from additional educational opportunities for African Americans. In 1888, James Solomon Russell, an Episcopal priest who had once been a slave, established a parish school for local African-American children. Five years later, the school was incorporated as the Saint Paul's Normal and Industrial School, the precursor of Saint Paul's College (Neblett 1999).

The character of Lawrenceville changed decisively from a sleepy courthouse village to an important commercial and transportation hub in 1890, when the Danville & Atlantic Railroad's line extended through the town and the company opened its engine shops, providing industrial jobs. The streetscapes surrounding the courthouse square took on much of their present character as blocks of masonry commercial buildings replaced smaller wood frame stores and offices.

On August 5, 1892, R. H. Sims advertised that the county would receive bids for a two-story



*Figure 4. Courthouse as it appeared in 1906 (Southside Virginia Historical Press [SVHP] 1906).*

fire-proof brick office building (*Manufacturer's Record* 1892:19). In 1893 this new clerk's office was completed by Marion J. Dimmock, one of Virginia's prominent architects of the period. A native of Portsmouth, Dimmock moved to Richmond with his family in 1833. During the Civil War, he served as a captain in the 10th Virginia Cavalry under General J.E.B. Stuart. Dimmock was most active as an architect from the 1880s to 1903. Referring to Dimmock's design of churches and upscale residences in Virginia's capital, a 1901 article described him as the "dean of [Richmond] architects." In addition to 10 houses and 10 churches credited to him, Dimmock also designed a variety of public buildings, mostly in Richmond but also across the state. His 1893 design of the Brunswick County Clerk's Office occurred in a period beginning in the 1890s when he designed hotels, offices, apartment buildings, an opera house, and a hospital. Dimmock worked alone during this span, but from 1871 to 1873 he partnered with his brother Charles and then from 1906 until his death in 1908 with the firm of Duncan Lee (Wells and Dalton 1997:119–121). Promoted to Fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 1888, Dimmock's importance derives both from his prolific output (frequently published in *American Architect and Building News*) as well as his influence on Lee and C. K. Bryant, whose output continued into the mid-twentieth century (Culhane 1997:Ch. II).

Dimmock's use of Romanesque elements in the Brunswick County Clerk's Office is consistent with other buildings he designed in the 1880s and 1890s. The Jones-Williams House and the Ellet House on West Franklin Street in Richmond exhibit Dimmock's embrace of the Richardsonian Romanesque style (Culhane 1997:Ch. II). For the clerk's office, he employed elements of the style such as semicircular arches, decorative masonry, and rough cut window sills, while at the same time making use of materials and a building form that echoed the appearance of the courthouse.

Two additions have been built on the rear of the clerk's office. In 1924, a small office expanded the building. A 1939 addition provided space for a large records room fitted with metal record cases. The additions retain the architectural traits of the original 1893 building (Mitchell 1974).

Also in the 1890s, based on inspection of photographs in the 1974 National Register nomination file, a new jail was constructed at the southeast corner of the square.

By 1907, the population of Lawrenceville stood at 2,000 (Neblett 1999). During the twentieth century, the town continued to serve as a local market and processing center for the surrounding countryside's agricultural products, including tobacco, cotton, and dairy farming.

During the twentieth century, the courthouse square, which had provided an informal social space on court days, took on a more stately appearance with a fence built to enclose and protect the grounds (Figure 5).

The square also became the site of commemoration and symbolism, with a Confederate memorial erected in 1911 and a monument to local veterans of the United States' twentieth-century wars through Vietnam installed in the 1960s. Beginning in the 1870s, Confederate memorials and other war monuments, "the focus of communal commemoration," were erected on almost every courthouse green in Virginia. The dedication of Confederate monument in Brunswick County took place just after the peak of commemorative fervor that occurred during the first decade of the twentieth century (Lounsbury 2005:331). At a reunion of local Confederate veterans in 1905, the decision was made to erect a memorial to them and their fallen brethren on the courthouse green. The local chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy raised \$2,100 to build an imposing monument built of Dinwiddie County granite; it was dedicated on November 9, 1911 (Neale et al. 1999:260–261) (Figure 6).



*Figure 5. Courthouse as it appeared in 1911; clerk's office is in right foreground (SVHP 1911).*



*Figure 6. Confederate memorial at north end of square in 1927 (SVHP 1927).*

Development of Lawrenceville in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century led the Sanborn Fire Insurance Company to create detailed maps of the town to help inventory the properties it insured. Four maps dating to 1912, 1920, 1926, and 1926–1938 document developments on the court square during this period (Figures 7–9). Thanks to the company’s detailed map legends and notation, it is known that the courthouse, clerk’s office, and jail all had slate or metal roofs during the early twentieth century. Sometime between 1920 and 1926, a small privy was built directly behind the clerk’s office next to Court Street. It is also evident that a portion of the jail yard, which had extended into the present path of Court Street, was removed by 1926 to broaden the road at its intersection with East Hicks Street.

Scattered records, photographs, and articles document repairs and modifications to the building in the ensuing century and a half. In 1902, the courthouse underwent repairs and its walls received a wash of the ocher-colored paint that survives to this day (Smithey 1907).

A photograph taken in 1906 shows fluting on the portico’s four massive columns, suggesting this may have been their original design. Photographs taken after major work on the building in the late 1930s show that the fluting was removed. The present flutes were reapplied during renovations in the mid-1970s. According to the recollections of William Moseley, a principal in the architectural firm that designed the mid-1970s renovations, the decision to reapply fluting was based on “historical evidence,” including the 1906 photograph (Bobby Conner, personal communication 2009). Although it is unclear if additional evidence also led to the decision, stylistic trends may have been a factor. Of three courthouses dating to the same period as the Brunswick courthouse that exhibit the same Greek Doric style (as opposed to Roman Doric), Powhatan (built 1949) and Lynchburg (1855) were built with fluted columns but Portsmouth/Norfolk County (1849) was

not. One common trait among the courthouses with fluted columns (Brunswick, Powhatan, and Lynchburg) is the scale of their porticos. All three have full-height porticos, whereas the second-story Portsmouth/Norfolk County portico rests upon a first story arcade. Later stylistic trends during the Victorian era also indicate that the fluting may have been original. Smooth columns would have been more consistent with late nineteenth- to early twentieth-century Victorian stylistic trends; therefore, it is unlikely that Brunswick County would have expended the effort and funds to *add* fluting that would have made the building appear less fashionable. Apart from the addition of a cupola, there is no evidence of a major building/remodeling campaign in the Victorian era, prior to 1906 when the photograph showing fluted columns was taken. Adding fluting to the portico columns would have been in complete contrast to the cupola, which clearly embraced Victorian style trends (Mark Wenger, personal communication 2009).

The most dramatic change to the courthouse occurred in 1939, with the addition of a two-story rear office block to accommodate various local and federal offices. Perhaps due to the perception of federal government interference in local affairs, the 1939 addition was not met with unanimous approval as “15 prominent citizens sought to stop construction” (*South Hill Enterprise* 1977). Although the addition altered the building’s temple block form, architectural materials and details were replicated from the original portion to pleasing effect. At this time, it is likely that the damaged fluting was removed to achieve the smooth surface as seen in a contemporary photograph (Figure 10). The \$38,437 project costs were divided equally between the Public Works Administration and Brunswick County (*South Hill Enterprise* 1977).

Illustrating the court green’s transformation into a “civic square” was the construction of a library at the north end near or partially within



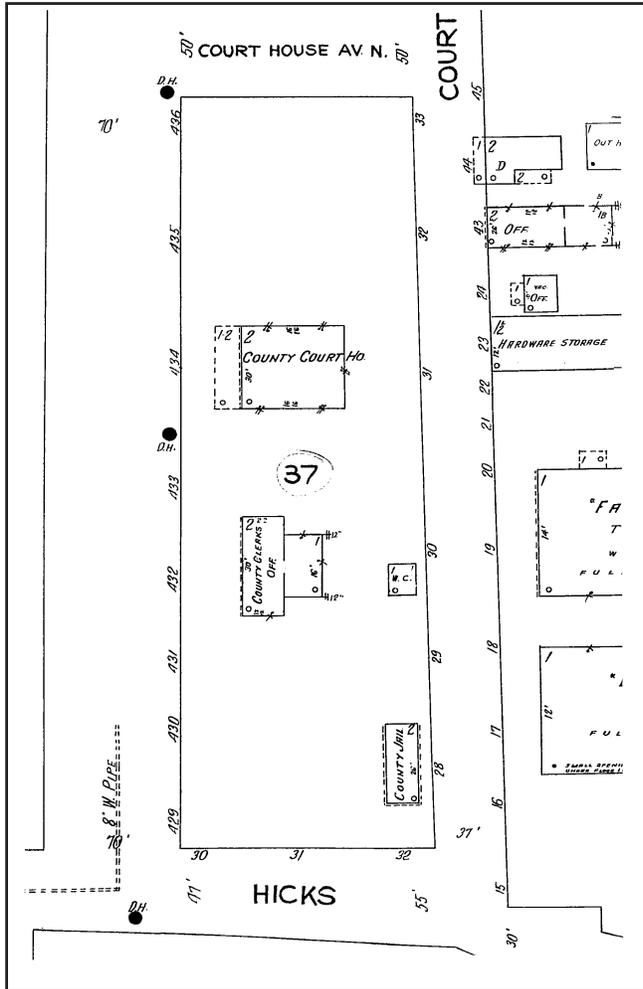


Figure 9. Sanborn Fire Insurance Company map showing Courthouse Square, October 1926 – November 1938.

setting between the 1854 courthouse building and the clerk's office.

In 1974, the courthouse and the surrounding square were listed on the National Register of Historic Places. With this recognition, the county supervisors were careful to consult with architectural historians at the Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks when planning a further addition to accommodate an elevator in 1975 (Hill 1975). The architectural firm of Moseley-Hening Associates, Inc. (Moseley-Hening), of Richmond, completed an addition to the courthouse, an addition to the

clerk's office, and extensive renovations and re-configuration especially of the interior in 1977. Most notably, arrangement of the bench and seating in the courtroom was shifted from an eastward to a northward orientation. Slate roofs were reinstalled on the courthouse as well as the clerk's office during the 1977 renovations (Everett 1977). New roofing was necessary as some of the old rooflines had changed. Notably, a year after the work by Mosely-Hening was completed, Fauber Garbee, Inc., Architects restored the fluting on the portico columns, which had been smoothed over during the 1938 project. This complicated, skilled task proved to be expensive; at the September 20, 1978 Board of Supervisors meeting, the firm estimated the cost at \$82,400.

Despite major renovations and additions in 1977, the county's court system had outgrown the 1854 building by the mid-1990s. In 1998 the firm of Browne, Eichman, Dalglish, Gilpin and Paxton P.C. was hired to build a new courthouse at the south end of the court square. Mindful of the importance of retaining the 1974 National Register listing, the county supervisors solicited advice from Virginia Department of Historic Resources regarding the siting and design of the new building. It had been considered preferable to build on a site across Court Street so as to not upset the historical integrity of the courthouse square. However, as the land was not available for purchase, every effort was made to avoid overwhelming the historic clerk's office and courthouse with an oversized and too modern building. Although the nineteenth-century jail on the corner of East Hicks and Court streets had to be demolished, the County adopted a recommendation from the Brunswick County Historical Society to save a historic watering trough that was built into a wall along Court Street (*Brunswick Times Gazette* 1993). Currently, the trough is sited behind the new courthouse in a paved sitting area. The Albertis S. Harrison, Jr. Courthouse was dedicated on April 18, 1999.



*Figure 10. Courthouse as it appeared in 1938 (Wootten 1938).*

### *COURTHOUSE BUILDING HISTORICAL ANALYSIS*

The present building is the product of three major building campaigns, dating successively to 1854, 1939, and 1976.

#### *1854*

The impressive Greek Revival courthouse, with its massive Doric portico, was built in 1854, and it remains the centerpiece of the main street of Lawrenceville—an important asset to the town and county it serves.

The building incorporated a second-floor courtroom at the rear, with separate spaces in the front set aside for the jury and justices. A large and impressive stair ascended to this courtroom from the ground-floor lobby. That lobby also afforded access to the building's ground floor, which was subdivided to provide offices for the clerk of court and other county functionaries. A north-south passage may have bisected the ground floor, connecting doorways at the midpoint of each flank.

This two-story courthouse formula had emerged in Virginia during the antebellum period, and indeed was popular across the nation. (Lounsbury, 2005:309–311).

#### *1939*

At this time a four-story annex was added across the rear end of the old courthouse, the entire building assuming the form of a “T.” Funded by a grant from the Works Progress Administration, this wing contained new offices to house the growing administrative functions of the county.

The office spaces in the wing were deployed along a single-loaded corridor that ran across the rear of the 1854 building. At the midpoint of this corridor it seems that a stair originally ascended from the basement of the wing to the third floor. The stair has since been removed and the openings at each floor closed in. However, physical evidence for this vanished conveyance is still visible on the west wall of Room B8 (Appendix A, plan A-4).

On the exterior, the fluted shafts of the Doric columns were “ironed out” smooth.

## *1976*

A new addition was made to the building, constructed to the designs of Moseley-Hening. Situated at the interior corner formed by the 1854 courthouse and the 1939 wing, this extension improved access to a newly remodeled courtroom and to all levels of the 1939 offices.

- On the ground floor of the main building, a concrete floor system was introduced, closing all ventilation apertures in the foundation and blocking access to the crawl space. Above this slab, the ground-floor offices were reconfigured and a vault constructed.
- On the second floor, the old courtroom was completely refinished and the rest of the second floor was reconfigured to better serve

this new space. The changes included closing up a portion of the 1854 stair well to create a pair of toilets, and improving access to the judge's chambers from the third floor of the 1939 wing.

- Throughout the building, lay-in, acoustical ceilings were installed, vinyl composite tile was applied to the floors and fan-coil units were installed in all major rooms to provide heating and cooling.
- The new addition and the earlier sections were all covered with a slate roof, served by copper gutters and rain leaders. New walks, steps, and railings of quasi-historical design were introduced at this time.
- Finally, the fluting of the columns was restored.

## 3: Physical Condition

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### *EXTERIOR*

#### *General Features*

##### *CUPOLA*

Clearly, the cupola is an early feature, although it is stylistically later than the 1854 building. As early as 1906 and as late as 1938, this component appears on postcard views of the building (Figure 11).

*Weather Vane.* The cupola is square in plan and covered with a hipped roof. Atop this roof is a pyramidal pedestal on which a weather vane is mounted. The weather vane has the cardinal indicators but the “index” or pointer has been lost (Figure 12).

*Weather Vane Pedestal.* The pedestal that carries the weather vane is entirely sheathed in copper. This covering appears to be in good condition, though much discolored by bird droppings.

*Roof.* The roof of the cupola is covered with slate. This was not accessible, but from below the slates appeared to be in a reasonable state of preservation.

Nonetheless, this roof should be renewed along with the slate roof of the building if and when it is replaced, renewing all flashings as well. (see Figure 12).

*Entablature.* The entablature has a plain cornice consisting of a cyma recta crown molding, a plain fascia and soffit and a plain frieze having no architrave. The frieze is punctuated by jig-sawn and laminated brackets.

All of this work remains in very good condition.

*Piers and Sill.* Each of the piers has a cap consisting of a fillet and below it, a cove. The piers have no bases; the shafts rest directly on a canted sill member. All of this work remains in very good condition.

*Substructure.* The portion of the cupola below the sill is entirely covered with copper flashing. Although these flashings appear to be in good order, inspection of the attic revealed that there may be ongoing leaks.

The flashings should be renewed in conjunction with replacement of the slate roof that now covers the building.

*Lowered Blinds.* The louvered blinds appear on early postcard views of the courthouse. They may be original and remain in good condition.

##### *ROOF*

All sloping portions of the roof are covered with thin slates laid with a consistent exposure of approximately 8 inches. Many slates are missing, others are broken with pieces missing, and a good number have been repaired with roofing cement. Still others been replaced, as evidenced by metal clips at the lower edge. The three uppermost courses on the northern slope have been re-laid at some point. The top course is daubed with roofing cement where it combs over the adjacent slope, and the fasteners for this course have been daubed as well (Figure 13).

The closed valleys are laid in copper, with a central rib, having no breaks. The slates are laid tight to this rib, so that debris has collected in the resulting crevice, impeding the flow of runoff from the roof (Figure 14).



*Figure 11. Cupola, looking west.*



*Figure 12. Weather vane.*



*Figure 13. Slate roof.*

The valley at the junction of the north slope of the 1854 roof with the 1939 roof has failed, resulting in much damage to the finishes in the second-floor lobby outside the judges' chambers (Room 313) and also in the stair leading from this lobby down to the courtroom (Room 213). Significant water damage to the plaster on the west wall of basement restroom (Room B9) may also be associated with this failure.

Above the 1976 wing is an area of flat roof now covered with asphalt roll-type roofing (Figure 15). The strips are lapped and hairline cracks are visible at virtually all of these seams. There are three penetrations of this roof—a ventilator for the area closed in by the flat deck, an antenna (no longer functioning), and a vent stack. At present, none of these seems to be admitting water.

This flat portion of the roof was intended to drain over the adjacent front (west) and end (south) slopes of the 1976 roof; however, copper flashing below the edge of this asphalt roofing raises the margin of the deck enough to prevent it. As a result, it appears that water stands on this roof for extended periods of time. At the junction of this deck with the roof ridge of the 1939 rear wing, the substrate is “spongy.” The effects of leaks from this deck are visible on the third floor (Room 301) where the plaster around the elevator shaft exhibits extensive water damage.

It is clear, then, that the entire roof has reached the end of its useful life. The roll roofing has failed and is admitting water, a major failure has occurred in a valley of the slate roof, and the slates themselves are so delicate that major work on this roof would inflict serious damage on what remains.

Several ranks of snow guards are deployed along the lower zone of the roof. Despite the light gauge of the metal from which they are made, these appear to be in good condition. However, they do not appear to have functioned adequately, judging from the condition of the gutters (see discussion below).

In view of these problems, we recommend that the entire roof be replaced with a standing-seam metal roof, the covering to be copper traditionally detailed at the ridges and valleys. On the flat deck, we recommend a membrane roof. All slopes should have snow guards.

#### *GUTTERS*

All gutters are of the ogee type, fabricated in copper. They are in poor condition, possibly the result of damage by descending snow. Whatever the cause, the gutter spikes have pulled free in many locations, allowing the fronts of the gutters to roll forward (Figure 16).

These should be replaced with half-round gutters of copper, suspended from hangers spaced no farther than 32” apart. These hangers should be attached to the roof framing.

As part of this renewal, all rain leaders should be replaced, fitting each with an overflow device at the lower end. This will quickly alert maintenance staff to any blockage below ground.

### *West Elevation – 1854 Building*

#### *GENERAL OBSERVATIONS*

The front façade of the courthouse is dominated by the Doric portico, simulating the appearance of a classical temple. The architectural features of the front wall are generally in very good condition, a consequence of having enjoyed the protection of this feature (Figure 17).

#### *WALL*

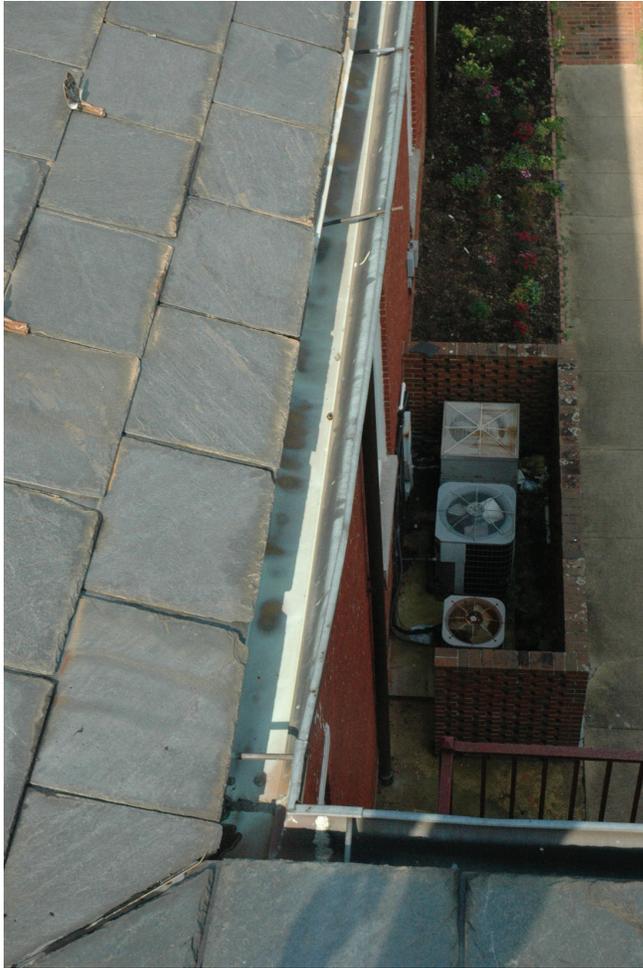
The front wall of the old courthouse is laid in 1:5 American bond, that is, one course of “headers” (short bricks) to five courses of “stretchers” (long bricks). Structural cracks are visible where a fan-coil heating/air conditioning unit was cut into the wall between the first- and second-floor windows south of the doorway. Otherwise the masonry is in very good condition, with substantial remains of color wash (a finish typically formulated using



*Figure 14. Closed valley of slate roof.*



*Figure 15. Asphalt roofing on flat deck.*



*Figure 16. Deformed copper gutter.*

*Figure 17. The portico.*



of a red pigment, like ocher, with a protein-based binder).

The cracks should be monitored as part of a comprehensive structural survey called for elsewhere in this report.

#### WINDOWS

These windows are original—frames, sashes, and sills. A wooden lintel spans each window, protected above by metal flashing. Each window is double-hung with 6/6 sashes and stands on a granite subsill. All remain in very good condition, owing to the protection afforded by the portico.

Originally these windows had shutters. Dutchmen in the frames show where the original hinges were let into the wood, and holes in the masonry indicate where the wrought iron hold backs were situated.

If funding were available at some point, these shutters should be re-created, along with hardware for holding them open and for securing them when they are shut.

#### DOORWAY

This doorway is original and remains largely intact. Only the sill appears to have been replaced, though in both sidelights the muntins of the lowest section have been lost.

Below the door opening, the sill is composed of granite and brick masonry veneered with bluestone below each of the sidelights. The original sill was probably a solid wooden member.

If funding is sufficient at some point to allow for restoring the historical appearance of the courthouse, a solid sill of walnut or old-growth heart pine should be substituted for the present masonry. Alternatively, the existing stone should be extended across the entire opening, taking care to match its composition and finish to existing work.

#### PORTICO

The portico is largely original, and is inarguably the most important element in defining the building's historical character (see Figure 17).

*Pediment.* The pediment is almost wholly original. The metal that now copes the horizontal run of cornice turns over a rectangular wooden filler strip, to which it is nailed at close intervals. A portion of this filler strip has disappeared, leaving no place to attach the coping (Figure 18).

In the affected area, the nails should be removed from the coping, and the filler strip should be replaced. The metal should then be turned back over this new strip and re-nailed. The strip should be back-primed before the work begins and painted once the installation is complete.

*Entablature.* The entablature is the deep, horizontal element running across the tops of the columns. It appears to be entirely original. The missing piece on the top of the horizontal cornice has already been noted. Also missing is a piece of molding representing the upper edge of the architrave, the lower member of the entablature (Figure 19). Otherwise, this feature appears to be in very good condition.

The missing section of molding should be replaced.

*Columns.* An early postcard view indicates that the columns were fluted as early as 1906. The present stucco fluting dates to the 1976 construction—for a time prior to that, the columns shafts had presented a smooth finish.

The restored ridges or “arrises” between the present flutes were formed using metal plaster beads, which have since rusted and will eventually blow out the stucco. However, if they are cleaned of rust and carefully maintained, they can probably serve for an additional period of years.

*Pavement.* The paved floor of the portico is composed of cleft bluestone laid in mortar (Figure 20). This is a non-historical treatment, though



*Figure 18. Coping on horizontal cornice of portico.*



*Figure 19. Missing section of molding on architrave of portico.*



Figure 20. Portico pavement.

something similar does show in the 1938 postcard view. The 1906 view is difficult to interpret, however it appears that the grade was somewhat lower than at present and that one stepped up two risers to the paved deck. In that case, the upper stone step may have functioned as edging for dry-laid brick paving.

Remembering that the sills of the windows are granite, it seems likely that the original paving, perhaps brick deployed in a herring bone patterns, was dry-laid tight within a border of granite steps cut without nosings. This earlier pavement seems to have been about  $\frac{3}{4}$ " higher than the present surface (Figure 20).

If funding allows, this treatment should be restored, the stones to have exposed faces tooled to match the finish of the window sills.

### *North Elevation – 1854 Building*

#### *GENERAL OBSERVATIONS*

Since its initial completion in 1854, this wall has witnessed significant changes. Overall, this por-

tion of the building remains in good condition (Figure 21).

#### *MASONRY WALL*

This wall is laid in 1:5 American bond (one header course to five stretcher courses) struck with overhand joints. Though it has not enjoyed the protection of the portico, it remains in very good condition, showing much evidence of color wash, a reddish coating usually formulated with a hide glue as a binder.

#### *CORNICE AND FRIEZE*

The cornice and frieze are continuations of the corresponding entablature elements. They date from the 1854 construction.

Owing to the failure of the north roof valley between the 1854 courthouse and the 1939 wing, the cornice below this intersection has been damaged by water infiltration (Figure 22).

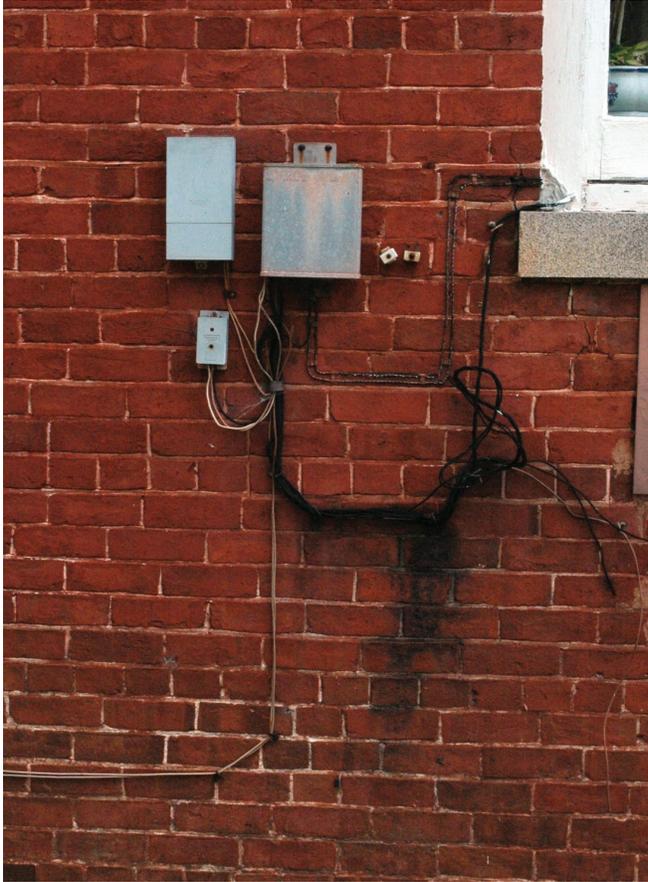
Damaged portions of the cornice on both sides of the valley should be repaired in old-growth heart pine, replicating all profiles.



*Figure 21. North elevation of the 1854 building.*



*Figure 22. Damaged cornice on the north façade of 1854 building.*



*Figure 23. Communications wiring and equipment on the north façade of the 1854 building.*

Within a screened brick enclosure, electrical wiring, as well as disconnects and piping for several condensers are also attached to this wall (Figure 24).

Subject to a comprehensive systems review by an engineer, these wires and all associated equipment should be removed from the exterior of the building, filling all penetrations with mortar to match the original, tinted with brick dust.

#### *WINDOWS*

All but one of these windows are original to the 1854 construction. A wooden lintel spans each window, protected above by metal flashing. Each window is double-hung with 6/6 sashes and stands on a granite subsill. The sills of the upper windows stand four courses lower than those on the front wall.

All remain in relatively good repair, though they require new putty and paint.

The middle, ground-floor window was originally a doorway—the right, lower jamb of this opening is still discernible in the rebuilt masonry below the present sill (Figure 25). The wooden lintel above the opening is a replacement, and the bearings have been rebuilt to receive it. Unlike the original window frames, the corners of this frame are mitered, and the masonry subsill is made of concrete, rather than granite.

If an exit in this position is inconsistent with present requirements, perhaps the doorway could be properly restored and simply fixed shut. In that case, the fan-coil unit now below the sill would have to be removed, and the provisions for heating and cooling adjusted to continue meeting needs of this space.

#### *SPRINKLER SYSTEM FITTING*

At the northwest corner of the 1854 building, near the rain leader and three courses below the window sill, is a 45-degree elbow fitting for discharge of the sprinkler system following tests. This is rusting.

This fitting should be cleaned, prepped, and painted to match the color of the masonry.

Exhaust Vent. In the pier between the northwest corner of the building and the nearest second-floor window is an exhaust vent of the sort that serves restrooms elsewhere in the building. It is not clear what space this vent serves. It is in very good condition.

#### *WIRING, EQUIPMENT AND PIPING*

Communications wiring and equipment is collected near the sill of the west, first-floor window (Figure 23).



*Figure 24. Electrical gear and HVAC piping on north façade of the 1854 building.*

*Figure 25. Brick jamb of early doorway on north façade of 1854 building.*





Figure 26. Wall stained by blocked rain leader.

#### *RAIN LEADER*

On this wall are two round copper rain leaders, both dating from the 1976 renovation—one at the front corner by the portico, and one near the midpoint of the wall, just east of the screened mechanical yard. The latter of these appears to have been blocked up at some point, as the wall behind it shows signs of heavy discharge over an extended time. It is unclear whether this leader is still blocked (Figure 26).

This leader discharges into a cast iron boot, from which a drain line runs away from the building in a northeasterly direction, indicated by the patched concrete sidewalk. It is possible that

storm water is leaking from this line back under the concrete slab of the main building, and thus creating problems in the basement bathroom of the rear wing (Room B4) (Figure 27).

It appears that this leader and two others at the north end of the 1939 rear wing connect to an east-west, cast iron storm drain that exits through the retaining wall behind the building, some distance above the sidewalk along Court Street. Despite multiple leaders supposedly hooked to this drain, James Hicks reports that it exhibits only modest discharge in a heavy rain. This could indicate that the drain line has partially collapsed or that one or more of the rain leaders feeding into it are blocked.

Some or all of the conditions described here may be contributing to significant water problems in the basement rest room of the rear wing (Room B9).

To conduct storm water away from the north side of the building effectively, the storm drain serving the leaders on this side should be replaced.

### *West Elevation – 1939 Wing*

#### *GENERAL OBSERVATIONS*

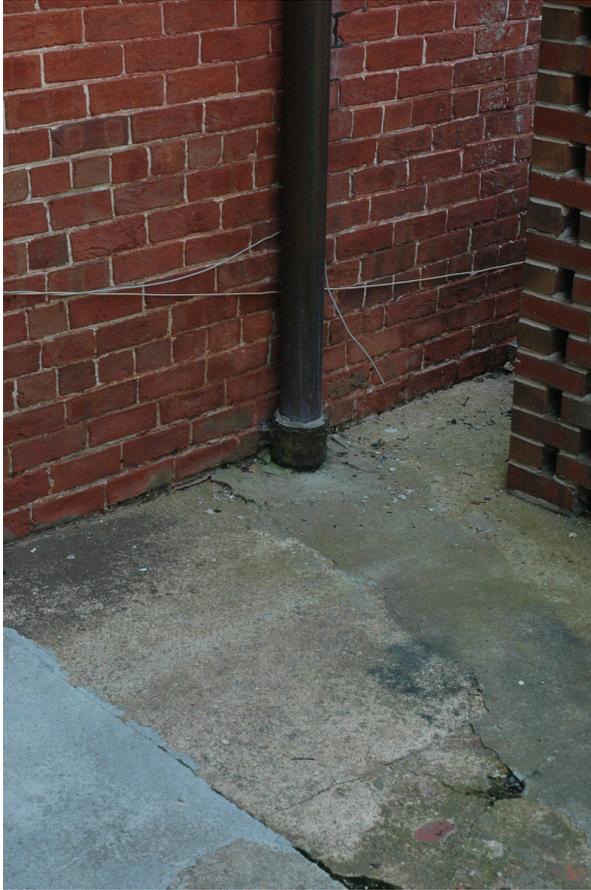
This is the “front” façade of the 1939 addition. The entry here is one of two principal points of access to the first-floor administrative offices of the wing (Figure 28).

#### *CORNICE*

The cornice continues that of the adjacent 1854 courthouse. The comments regarding that cornice are applicable here. See “Exterior – North Elevation – 1854 Building – Cornice.”

#### *SPRINKLER SYSTEM FITTING*

In the soffit of the cornice is a 45-degree elbow fitting for discharge of the sprinkler system following tests. This appears to be in very good condition.



*Figure 27. Cast iron boot of rain leader. Note patch in concrete walk.*

**MASONRY WALL**

This is the exposed front wall of the 1939 wing. It is laid in 1:6 American bond and struck with over-hand joints. The wall is in excellent condition.

**EXHAUST VENT**

Under the north, first-floor window is an exhaust fan vent, positioned to serve the basement rest-room (Room B9).

This vent appears to be of relatively recent vintage and is in very good condition.

**RAIN LEADER**

At the northwest corner of the 1939 wing is a 4" copper rain leader, probably dating from the



*Figure 28. West facade of 1939 wing.*

1976 renovation. At the ground, this connects to a cast iron boot. It appears that this boot connects to a clogged or collapsed subsurface drain, mentioned earlier in relation to a rain leader on the north side of the old courthouse. If the drain line were obstructed, that would allow water to back up in the rain leader, into and over the gutter, wetting the west porch and the west foundation in a heavy storm.

For recommendations, see “North Elevation – 1854 Building – Rain Leader.”

**PORCH**

The existing porch has steps, a deck and cheek wall, all of masonry. The joints of this masonry,

especially on the steps and in the cheek wall at the end of the steps, exhibit extensive failure and are admitting water to the area below the porch (Figure 29). It is likely that this water is finding its way into the basement toilet room (Room B9). Past efforts to secure the joint between the deck of this porch and the flank of the old courthouse are visible in the copious pointing at this location (Figure 30). “Pointing” is the tooled mortar in the joints of the masonry.

To halt the infiltration of water through this porch, we recommend that the entire porch be dismantled, salvaging and cleaning all brick possible. With appropriate measures to capture and redirect infiltrating water, the porch should be rebuilt with a granite deck and steps, but with a crawl space having a floor slab and an at-grade access on the north flank. All necessary measures should be taken to waterproof the walls of the adjacent wings and to secure their junction with the slab.

#### *DOORWAY*

The existing glazed (or “windowed”) door and frame are original. They remain in generally good condition though some repairs will be necessary at the bottom of the frame and on the interior of the door, where the veneer is lifting.

*Windows.* The five windows on this façade are all original to the 1939 construction. A wooden lintel spans each window, being protected above by metal flashing. Each window is double-hung with 6/6 sashes and has a limestone subsill below the window frame.

All remain in generally good condition, though they will require paint and putty.

#### *FIRE ESCAPE*

The existing fire escape is an original feature of the 1939 wing and is built of steel channels. The condition of this appendage remains unclear, as it was not accessible from the interior, the windows being painted shut (Figure 31).

Fire escapes no longer constitute an acceptable alternative to fire-rated egress, and the continued presence of a fire escape here may represent a violation of the building code. Consequently, it should be removed, subject to the recommendations of the fire safety survey called for elsewhere in this report.

### *North Elevation – 1939 Wing*

#### *GENERAL OBSERVATIONS*

Apart from creation of the existing areaway at some point, probably in 1976, this elevation has changed little since 1939, when the eastern addition was completed (Figure 32).

#### *PEDIMENT*

The triangular front gable of the portico and the cornices that frame it are collectively referred to as the “pediment.” This pediment is defined by two sections of raking cornice—the same profile as on the west elevation of the 1939 wing—and a horizontal run of cornice, from which the uppermost member, the “crown molding,” is omitted, as customary. The horizontal cornice is protected by a metal covering or “coping.” All of these elements appear to be in very good condition (Figure 33).

The interior or “tympanum” of the pediment is composed of flush wooden sheathing. At the center is a louvered vent. This vent is in poor condition—the trim has warped and separated from the tympanum, admitting water behind the sheathing. As a result, paint is failing on the louver and on the sheathing.

The trim of the louver should be replaced, and the entire vent assembly, as well as the sheathing, should be repainted.

#### *WALL*

General observations concerning the masonry wall of the west elevation are applicable here. See “Exterior – West Elevation – 1939 Wing – Wall.”



*Figure 29. Failed mortar joints of north porch – 1939 wing.*



*Figure 30. Pointing at deck of north porch – 1939 wing.*

The wall is in very good condition, though communications wiring runs up the pier between the windows, entering the “soffit” or underside of the cornice at the roof.

Subject to a comprehensive systems review by an engineer, these wires and all associated equipment should be removed from the exterior of the building. All penetrations should be patched, replacing bricks as necessary for larger openings, filling smaller holes using mortar to match the original, tinted with brick dust.

#### *WINDOWS*

General comments concerning the character of the windows on the west elevation of the 1939 Wing are applicable here. See “Exterior – West Elevation – 1939 Wing – Windows.”

All windows remain in generally good condition, though paint and putty are required.

#### *AREAWAY*

As originally completed each of the present basement windows stood in a brick well which extended well below grade (Figure 34). At some

point, possibly in 1976, these wells were removed and excavations were made to produce the present pit or “areaway.” The foundation wall exposed as a result retains its original waterproofing, and ghosts of the vanished window wells are also visible.

The areaway is enclosed by a 12” brick wall, and covered over the top by steel grating through which a hinged and lockable door provides access. Rusting is visible over most of the steel grating.

The grating should be cleaned, prepped, and painted, and the exposed waterproofing should be removed.

### *East Elevation – 1939 Wing*

#### *GENERAL OBSERVATIONS*

This rear elevation shows the full height of the 1939 wing. It is seven bays wide, with the middle three bays pulled forward to create a central pavilion. Ground-level doorways are situated in the end bays of this pavilion (Figure 35).

Originally the grade was somewhat higher than at present, having been contained by a stone retaining wall. (Remnants of this wall remain in place north and south of the building). Judging



*Figure 31. Fire escape – 1939 wing.*



*Figure 32. North façade – 1939 wing.*



*Figure 33. North gable and louvered vent – 1939 wing.*



*Figure 34. Ghost of former window well in north areaway.*



*Figure 35. East façade – 1939 wing.*

from the late retaining wall at the south end of the building, it was probably in 1976 that the stone wall directly behind the building was removed and the grade was lowered, exposing the 1939 waterproofing on the foundation. Perhaps this change was prompted by water problems or by some sort of alteration to Court Street.

The exposed waterproofing should be removed.

#### *PEDIMENT*

The general comments concerning the character of the pediment on the north elevation of the 1939 wing are applicable here. “See Exterior – West Elevation – 1939 Wing – Cornice.”

This pediment is in very good condition.

#### *GABLE*

The ridge of the 1854 building is slightly higher than that of the 1939 wing, allowing for a small gable above the 1939 roof ridge (Figure 36).

This gable is generally in good condition, though the soldered joint in the copper flashing below has failed.

The gable should be cleaned, prepped, and painted, and the flashing should be replaced as part of re-roofing the structure.

#### *CORNICE*

The general comments concerning the character of the cornice on the west elevation of the 1939 wing are applicable here. See “Exterior – West Elevation – 1939 Wing – Cornice.”

This cornice is in very good condition.

#### *MASONRY WALL*

General observations concerning the masonry wall of the west elevation are applicable here. See “Exterior – West Elevation – 1939 Wing – Wall.” For condition and recommendations, see “Wiring” below.

The 1939 waterproofing is visible at the bottom of this wall, where the grade has been lowered.

#### *WIRING*

The wall exhibits numerous unsightly penetrations from earlier wiring (Figure 37). Presently, electrical conduit and communications wiring runs exposed in several areas, and a gang mounting for three insulators, now unused, remains attached to the wall.

Subject to a comprehensive systems review by an engineer, these conduits and wires, as well as the insulator mounting, should be removed from the exterior of the building. All penetrations should be patched, replacing bricks as necessary for larger openings and filling smaller holes using mortar to match the original, tinted with brick dust.

#### *EXHAUST FAN VENTS*

Exhaust fan vents are positioned at the north corner of the pavilion to serve the first- and second-floor restrooms (Rooms 105 and 207, respectively). Apparently the third-floor bathroom (Room 307) vents through the attic.

The vents on the east wall appear to be of relatively recent vintage and are in very good condition.

#### *HOSE BIBS*

At the south end of the façade, in the pier between the two ground-floor windows, are two hose bibs. One of these is missing its handle (Figure 38).

A handle should be provided for the south bib.

#### *SIGN*

Just south of the middle, first-floor window, a metal sign is attached to the brick wall designating the basement as a fallout shelter, with a capacity of 110 persons.

The fallout shelter sign should be allowed to remain as a bit of Cold War history.



*Figure 36. Small gable – east end of 1854 roof.*



*Figure 37. Penetrations in east facade of 1939 wing.*



Figure 38. Hose bib missing handle.

#### *RAIN LEADERS*

At each corner of this elevation is a 4" copper rain leader, probably dating from the 1976 renovation. At the ground, each discharges into a cast iron boot. It appears that both of these boots may connect to obstructed or collapsed subsurface drains on their respective ends of the building.

For recommendations, see "North Elevation – 1854 Building – Rain Leader."

#### *NORTH ENTRY*

*Area.* Originally the cheek walls of this area were somewhat higher, in order to retain the higher grade. The ghosts of these higher walls are still visible on the east wall of the building, along with the 1939 waterproofing (Figure 39).

When the grade was lowered, the upper portions of the cheek walls were dismantled down to the new grade, and two new courses added back to the tops.

Within the area, the present concrete slab pitches toward a drain in the northwest corner, by the building. As the slab falls, it exposes the concrete foundations of the cheek walls. The joints between the masonry and these foundations have since opened up, and the resulting void has been inadequately re-pointed.

This mortar should be removed carefully with hand tools and the joint re-pointed, matching the original mortar of the cheek walls. Also, the drain should be tested to ensure that it is functioning properly. In both areas it is likely that the drains connect to a cast iron outlet at the curb.

*Door Frame.* The frame accommodates a door, with a glazed window or "transom" above. The plank "jamb" or vertical sides stand on a concrete sill. They are trimmed on the exterior with a square-edge casing. These casings exhibit modest deterioration where they meet the concrete. Hinges on the exterior edge of the jambs indicate that the doorway was once fitted with a screen door, undoubtedly in the years prior to air conditioning (Figure 40).

The exterior jamb casings should be replaced in old-growth heart pine, treating the lower ends with a wood preservative effective against insect and fungal attack and capable of holding paint. The entire frame should then be cleaned, prepped, and painted.

*Door.* The door has nine lights of glazing above the lock rail and a single panel below. The door shows signs of failing paint and deterioration.

The exterior of the door should be cleaned, prepped, and painted.

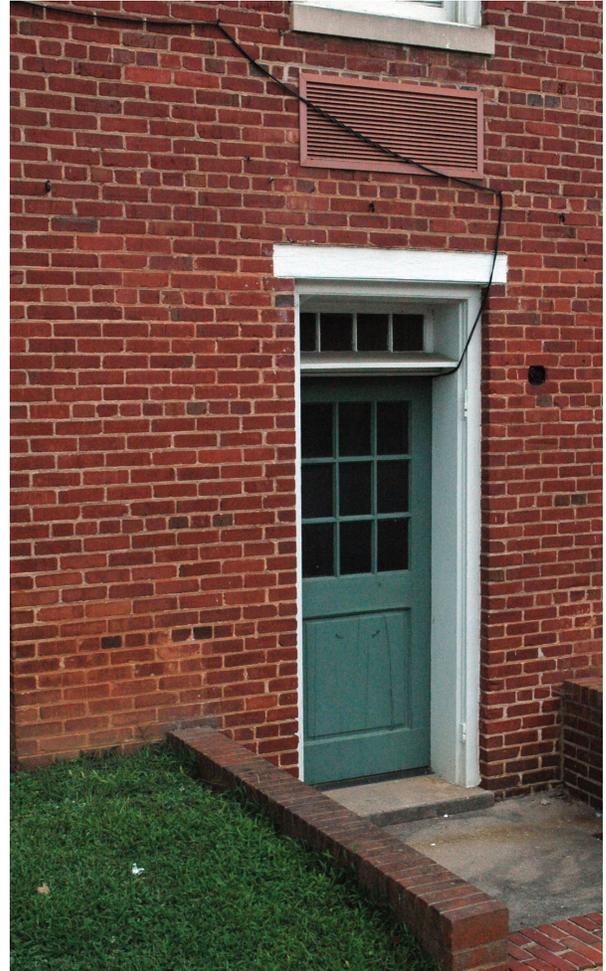
*Transom Sash.* The transom sash is glazed with five lights. It remains in very good condition.

#### *SOUTH ENTRY*

See "North Entry."



*Figure 39. 1939 waterproofing and ghost of higher cheek wall at north entry.*



*Figure 40. Door and door frame at north entry, east façade of 1939 wing.*

## WINDOWS

General comments concerning the character of the windows on the west elevation of the 1939 Wing are applicable here. See “Exterior – West Elevation – 1939 Wing – Windows.”

All windows remain in generally good condition, though paint and putty are required.

### *South Elevation – 1939 Wing*

#### GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Like the north wall of the 1939 wing, this end of the wing originally had two basement windows in brick wells that extended well below grade. They have since been closed up (Figure 41). Perhaps this was done in 1976 to minimize disturbance of proceedings in the basement, which was appropriated at that time as a courtroom.

#### CORNICE

General comments concerning the character of the cornice on the west elevation of the 1939 Wing are applicable here. See “Exterior – West Elevation – 1939 Wing – Cornice.” At the front corner of the 1939 wing, this cornice returns against the 1976 addition.

The cornice remains in very good condition.

#### MASONRY WALL

General comments concerning the character of the east wall of the 1939 Wing are applicable here. See “Exterior – East Elevation – 1939 Wing – Wall.” Nonetheless, the wall is in very good condition, and the blocked basement windows do not appear to be admitting water below grade.

#### WIRING

This wall is crisscrossed with conduits and exposed communications wiring. Also, the disconnect for an adjacent compressor unit is mounted here (Figure 42).

Subject to a comprehensive systems review by an engineer, all wire and conduit, along with the

disconnect, should be removed from the exterior of the building. Penetrations should be patched, filling smaller holes using mortar to match the original, tinted with brick dust.

## WINDOWS

General comments concerning the character of the windows on the west elevation of the 1939 Wing are applicable here. See “Exterior – West Elevation – 1939 Wing – Windows.”

All windows remain in generally good condition, though paint and putty are required.

### *South Elevation – 1976 Wing*

#### MASONRY WALL

This 1976 wall is laid in 1:6 American bond, presumably to match the masonry of the 1939 wing. Apart from the cornice, the wall is entirely devoid of architectural features. It is in very good condition.

### *West Elevation – 1976 Wing*

#### GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

This façade is the frontispiece of the 1976 Moseley-Hening addition. Its design reflects the need for a major public entry by the elevator and stair, and also the need to light the second-floor landing (Figure 43).

#### CORNICE

The fascia and soffit of this 1976 addition continue those of the adjoining 1854 building, though the frieze is shallower. This cornice remains in very good condition.

#### WALL

This wall is laid in 1:6 American bond, presumably to match the masonry of the 1939 wing. This work is original to the 1976 construction of the Moseley-Hening addition. It remains in very good condition.



Figure 41. Blocked basement window – south façade – 1939 wing.

#### *DOORWAY*

The present unit, with its glazed doors and side-lights, is original to the 1976 renovation. The bottom rails of the doors are slightly deteriorated on their lower edges. Otherwise the entire unit remains in very good condition.

The bottom rails of both doors should be replaced with new material of the same shape and size, and treated with a wood preservative.

#### *WINDOW*

Above the doorway and centered on it is a 6/6 double-hung sash window with a cast stone sill. It lights the second-floor landing of the stair and responds to the windows on the adjoining flank



Figure 42. Wiring on the south façade of the 1939 wing.

of the 1854 building. The window remains in very good condition.

#### *LIGHTING FIXTURE*

A modern lighting fixture, matching those at the front door of the old courthouse, is mounted south of the doorway. It is original to the 1976 construction. This fixture is in very good condition.

#### *PLANTER*

South of the 1976 front doorway is a brick planter. This has rolled forward and thus pulled away from the wall (Figure 44).

The feature should be dismantled and rebuilt on a proper foundation.

## *South Elevation – 1854 Building*

### *GENERAL OBSERVATIONS*

This façade has witnessed several changes, including conversion of the east, first-floor doorway to a window, and construction of the 1976 extension, which partly covered the flank of the 1854 building (Figure 46). This elevation faces a paved yard that serves as the approach to the 1976 entry. Because this is still the main point of public access to the upper floors, it will acquire much greater importance when those floors are reoccupied.

### *CORNICE*

General remarks concerning the cornice on the north elevation of the 1854 building are applicable here. See “Exterior – North Elevation – 1854 Building – Cornice.” This cornice is in very good condition.

### *MASONRY WALL*

The masonry wall has been repaired with modern brickwork where the east, first-floor window was restored. The new work replicates the bonding of the original work, but the mortar and brick do not match (Figure 46).

This work should be color-washed to assist in blending with the original work. Color wash was generally composed of a reddish pigment such as ochre with a protein binder such as hide glue, both mixed with other constituents in water. It should be applied hot. This material can be matched by Virginia Lime Works, in Madison Heights, Virginia.

### *RAIN LEADERS*

Two rain leaders serve this façade of the 1854 building. One stands near the front corner of the building, close by the portico. At the ground, it discharges into a cast iron boot.

The other rain leader stands about 30 inches beyond the east jamb of the east window, near the front of the 1976 wing. It discharges into a



*Figure 43. West façade of 1976 addition.*

PVC boot which seemingly runs over to the catch basin in the yard.

These rain leaders should be tested to assure that they are not connected to a foundation drain. Once that is confirmed, the subsurface drainage to which they are attached should be replaced.

### *WINDOWS*

General remarks concerning the windows on the north elevation of the 1854 building are applicable



*Figure 44. Planter has rolled away from west face of 1976 addition.*

*Figure 45. South façade of 1854 building.*





*Figure 46. Conversion of early doorway to a window – 1976.*

here. See “Exterior – North Elevation – 1854 Building – Windows.”

Prior to the 1976 renovation, what is now the east, ground-floor window had functioned as a doorway. As part of the 1976 construction, this doorway was closed up and converted to a window (see Figure 45). The present subsill is concrete rather than stone, and the frame miters at the corners, unlike the window frames.

#### *FORMER DOORWAY*

A 1911 postcard view shows this now-vanished doorway aligning with the window above, the head being slightly lower than for the adjacent ground-floor windows. Over the door was a

three-light transom. This entry is also visible in a postcard view thought to date from 1938. In that representation, the steps in front of the doorway seem to have had stone cheeks.

The doorway was probably an original feature, aligned with the entry on the opposite side of the building. That alignment, and the transoms, suggest that a passage may have connected these corresponding doorways.

## *INTERIOR*

### *1854 Attic*

#### *ROOF DECK AND FRAMING*

The roof is borne on a series of trusses, each with butted upper chords meeting at a wrought iron vertical rod. On each slope, nine purlins plus the ridgepole span between the pairs of adjacent trusses (Figure 47). These carry sheathing boards that run from eave to ridge. The sheathing exhibits extensive staining from past leaks, though none of the present-day slate nails showed signs of rust.

Down at the level of the second-floor ceiling, a series of joists span between the pairs of trusses. These are entirely concealed by blown-in insulation, so that moving across the attic requires patience and caution. This insulation makes periodic inspection of the framing very difficult.

On the south slope of the roof, the lower chords of one truss had deteriorated significantly as a consequence of prior leaks. The entire roof should be examined by a structural engineer.

#### *CUPOLA FRAMING*

The cupola is borne on two east-west beams spanning the portico ceiling. One of these has failed, allowing the northeast corner of the cupola to drop (Figure 48).

Because of past leaks, the portico ceiling joists are probably in worse condition than elsewhere in the roof, and like other attic joists, they remain partly obscured by blown-in insulation. For that reason, walking in this area is risky.



*Figure 47. Trusses in 1854 attic.*



*Figure 48. Sagging girder below northeast corner of the cupola.*

Moreover, the area of the portico ceiling directly below the cupola is laden with a deep accumulation of bird droppings (see Figure 37). Because this material is holding moisture, it contributes to the continuing deterioration of the portico ceiling joists and increases the load on that framing.

Because the cupola stands directly over the main entrance, **the droppings, the portico ceiling joists, and the failed beam under the cupola require immediate attention from a structural engineer (see “Priority I - Structural Issues” in Chapter 7).**

#### *DUCTS AND AIR HANDLING UNITS*

To cool the new courtroom below, a pair of air handlers was installed above the ceiling in 1976. The distribution was constructed using duct-board, with some portions supported on billets of styrofoam. A small duct brings fresh air from the cupola. Owing to the close proximity of supply and return registers, some of the conditioned air being delivered to the courtroom would probably be short-circuited.

A mechanical engineer should examine this installation as part of a comprehensive survey of MEP/Communications systems.

#### *CHIMNEY STACKS*

Against the interior face of the rear, gable-end truss stand two chimney stacks, one near each rear corner of the building. These stacks have been dismantled below the roof, and it remains unclear what supports them below. Each is approximately 18 x 27 inches in plan (Figures 49 and 50).

The means by which these stacks are supported should be explored further as part of the comprehensive structural survey called for elsewhere in this report.

#### *1939 Attic*

##### *ROOF DECK AND FRAMING*

Most of the roof framing appears to be in excellent condition. However, where the extended ridge of

the 1854 roof meets the ridge of the 1939 roof, all four of the valley rafters are discontinuous. At some point, each of these valley rafters was undergirded by a new member, hung from plywood reinforcing plates or “gussets.” At some later time, sprinkler piping was punched through each of the new members, often well away from the neutral axis (Figure 51).

A structural engineer should examine all four of the valley rafters as part of a comprehensive survey of the building’s structural systems.

#### *LEAKS*

At the point where the northwest valley rafter meets the back wall of the old courthouse, a serious active leak is evident from extensive staining of the rafters (Figure 52).

#### *1976 Attic*

##### *FRAMING AND DECK*

This space lies between the 1976 deck above and the 1854 and 1939 decks below. Leaks have caused some deterioration of the 1976 framing (Figure 53). The sloping decks of the 1854 and 1939 roofs are covered with felt and so have been protected from these leaks.

The damaged locations should be examined by a structural engineer as part of the comprehensive structural survey called for in the Rehabilitation Recommendations, below.

#### *LEAKS*

Around the margin of the 1976 flat deck are two significant leaks. One of these is at the front edge, near its midpoint. From this point, water drips down onto the 1854 roof, flows down to the eave, and, reaching the bottom, drips onto the plywood floor.

The other leak is in the south edge of the deck, where it passes over the elevator shaft. From this point, water drips onto the top of the shaft, ponding there until it overflows, running down all sides of the shaft (Figure 54).



*Figure 49. North chimney stack at rear gable of 1854 building.*



*Figure 50. South chimney stack at rear gable of 1854 building.*



*Figure 51. Supplemental framing at valley rafters – 1939 attic.*



*Figure 52. Evidence of roof leak – 1939 attic.*



*Figure 53. Damage from leaking at eastern edge of flat roof deck.*



*Figure 54. Evidence of water running down sides of elevator shaft.*

For recommendations, see “Exterior – Roof.”

### *Third Floor*

#### *GENERAL*

The third floor is confined to the 1939 and 1976 portions of the building. It houses offices in the 1939 wing and public circulation in the 1976 addition.

#### *PLAN*

Room 303 was subdivided at some point to create an anteroom for that office. This drastically reduced the square footage of the office and seriously diminishes its utility.

The partition that created this division should be removed.

#### *CEILING*

The entire floor has a textured ceiling of lay-in acoustical tiles, supported in a black-colored grid. This system was installed in 1976. The ceiling is

badly damaged in Room 313, and also over the adjoining stair that descends from this space to the court room. These areas are directly below a failed roof valley (Figure 55).

All tiles in Room 313 and over the landing of the courtroom stair should be replaced.

#### *ATTIC ACCESS*

A more suitable attic access should be provided for safe entry that does not damage the ceiling or the surrounding finishes.

#### *WALLS*

The 1976 plaster around the elevator shaft and on the beam spanning from the shaft to the 1854 building exhibits extensive damage from leaks associated with the flat roof deck. Further damage is visible in Room 313 below where a valley in the slate roof has failed. It is likely that the metal lathing in these badly damaged areas has deteriorated (Figure 56).



*Figure 55. Damaged ceiling tiles in Room 313.*



*Figure 56. Damaged plaster at the elevator shaft.*

All of the affected plaster and also the lathing (where its condition warrants) should be renewed, and all spaces should be repainted.

#### *FLOORS*

The floors are laid with vinyl composite tile dating from the 1976 renovation. In the offices these tiles are now covered with carpet.

In the circulation areas the tiles remain exposed. Those around the elevator are beginning to lift, a consequence of having been doused repeatedly by the leaking roof. Also, tiles are cracking where the 1976 concrete floor meets the 1939 wooden floor (Figure 57).

Carpets throughout the third floor should be replaced. If the tile floors exposed as a result are in poor condition, they too, should be replaced, repairing wooden substrate as necessary in the 1939 wing. In any case, all tiles in Room 301 should be taken up, the wooden substrate of the 1939 floor repaired, and replacement tiles installed.

#### *WINDOWS*

All windows are original to the construction periods of their respective additions. On the interior they appear to be in good condition.

#### *TOILETS*

The toilet in room 307 is deficient in regard to ADA access and other code requirements.

It should be upgraded to provide ADA-compliant access and to satisfy other code requirements.

#### *FAN COIL UNITS AND ELECTRICAL BASEBOARD UNITS*

Evaluation of the MEP systems is beyond the scope of this study. However, some of these units may be approaching the end of their useful life. All should be evaluated as part of the survey called for in the Rehabilitation Recommendations – Priority II, below. The disposition of these systems should be determined before undertaking floor repairs (Figure 58).

#### *WATER COOLER*

The water cooler in Room 304 should be evaluated as part of the MEP/Communications survey called for in “Rehabilitation Recommendations – Priority II,” below (Figure 59).

#### *CABINETS*

The base cabinet in the kitchenette area adjoining Room 212 has become nasty in the compartment below the sink. This unit, together with the upper cabinets, should be removed, and the remaining finishes repaired as necessary, renewing the floor.

### *Second Floor*

#### *GENERAL OBSERVATIONS*

The second floor of the 1854 building embraces the room used until recently by the circuit court, together with associated rooms for juries, witnesses, and prisoners. As on the floor above, the second floor of the 1939 wing is composed of offices, circulation, and toilets, while the 1976 addition is given entirely to circulation.

#### *HISTORICAL LAYOUT – COURTROOM, JURY ROOM, AND JUSTICES’ ROOM*

The modern courtroom runs in a north-south direction with the bench situated at the north end of the room. Prior to 1977, the bench reportedly stood at the eastern end of the room, presumably facing west (NRHP, 251-0001, 2009) (Figures 60 and 61). No evidence has been forthcoming as to how long this previous arrangement might have been in use, though an east-west orientation of the court room would have conformed to the 1853 arrangement of Lunenburg Courthouse, another instance of a second-floor courtroom. Though the Brunswick space is largely denatured, physical evidence offers some sense of the second-floor layout.

The most important evidence lies in the foundations below the ground floor of the old courthouse. Now inaccessible, these were re-



*Figure 57. Failed floor tiles.*



*Figure 58. Typical fan coil unit.*



Figure 59. Typical water cooler.

corded by Moseley-Hening in 1975. Several long walls serve to delineate the original ground-floor divisions of the building. More importantly for present purposes, these foundations confirm the original chimney locations, each identified by a large rectangular mass. Near the front of the building were two chimneys—one to heat each of the front rooms—as early postcard views confirm. In each case, the chimney stood on the west or “back” wall of the front room, protruding into the space. That deployment places the original walls precisely in the location of the present partitions, confirming that the dimensions of these front rooms have not changed. It follows that the size of the larger space—the courtroom—also remains unchanged.

Early Virginia courthouses usually embraced three rooms—a courtroom, a room for the jury, and a room for the justices. The courtroom was, of course, the largest of these, while the lesser spaces were generally of equal size. These smaller rooms were usually heated. If we were to reinstate the chimneys, the present front rooms would fit this description very well. They are identical in size and both would be heated.

What about the courtroom? Virginia courtrooms were rarely heated until the nineteenth century, but when they were, the chimney often stood *within* the bar—that is, at the *justices’* end of the courtroom. The Moseley-Hening basement plan shows a massive foundation at the northeast corner of the old courthouse—and the truncated stack of this chimney is still visible and in the corresponding corner of the attic. But a second chimney stack stands on the back of the old courthouse—at the opposite end of the rear wall. The truncated stack of this chimney also survives. It is closer to the eave than the first, and there seems to be nothing below to have carried it. Perhaps it was merely a stove flue, which corbelled out the wall.

On that basis one could argue that the justice’s bench stood by the larger fireplace—at the north end of the courtroom—as it does today. In the eighteenth century, however, there were as many as twelve justices at a session of the court, so the bench was often curved in plan, spanning the entire breadth of the room. Typically it was raised on an elevated platform and enclosed by railings and balusters. In the nineteenth century, the number of justices tended to diminish, and courtroom fittings responded—the platform became smaller.

The bar—separating justices and officers of the court from the public side of the room—possibly stood north of the present doorway. In that case, the justices could move to and from their adjoining room without passing through the public end of the courtroom. This, then, is the reason for thinking that the north room could have been the justices’ room.

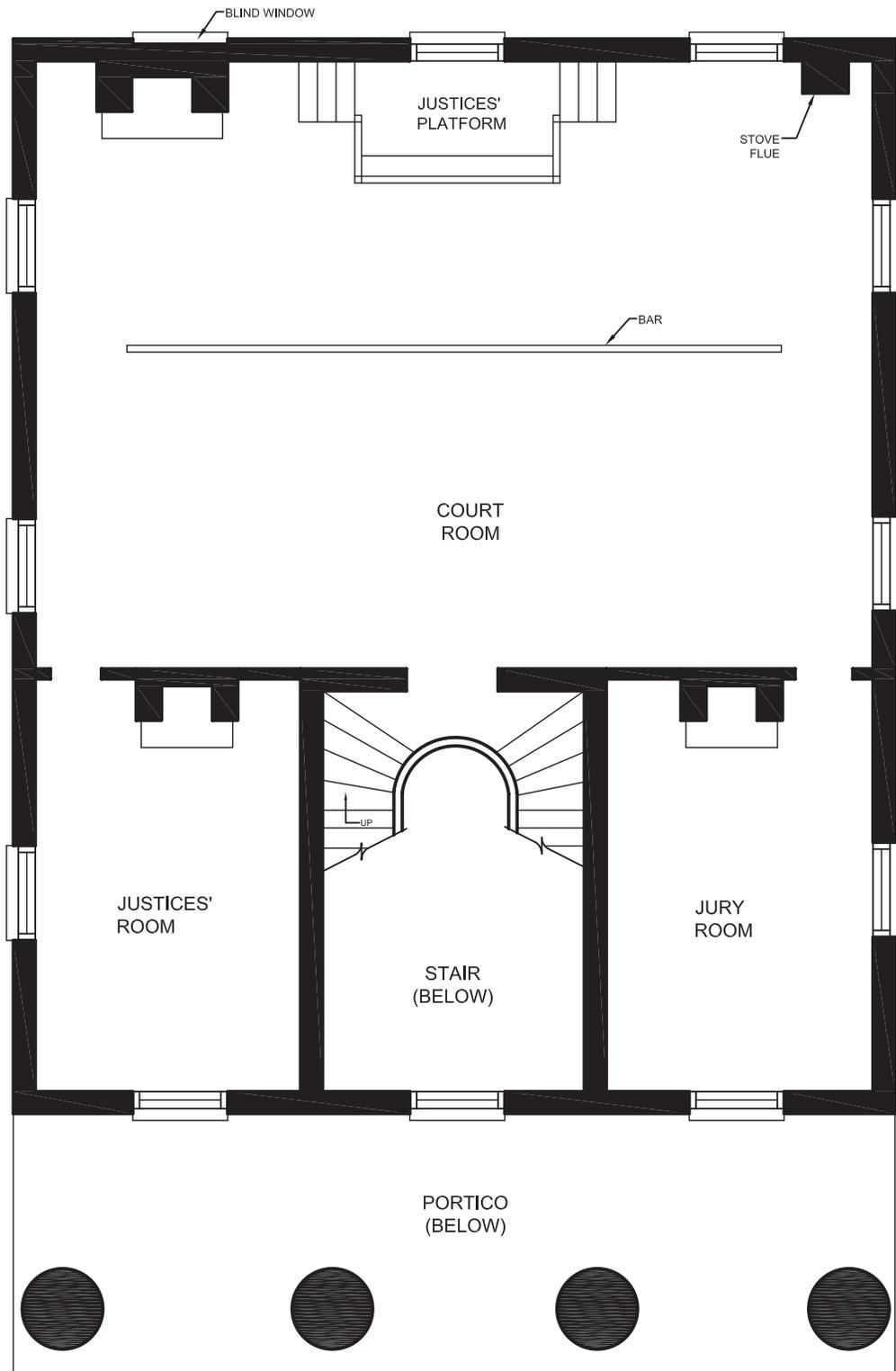


Figure 60. Courtroom plan in 1854, version 1.

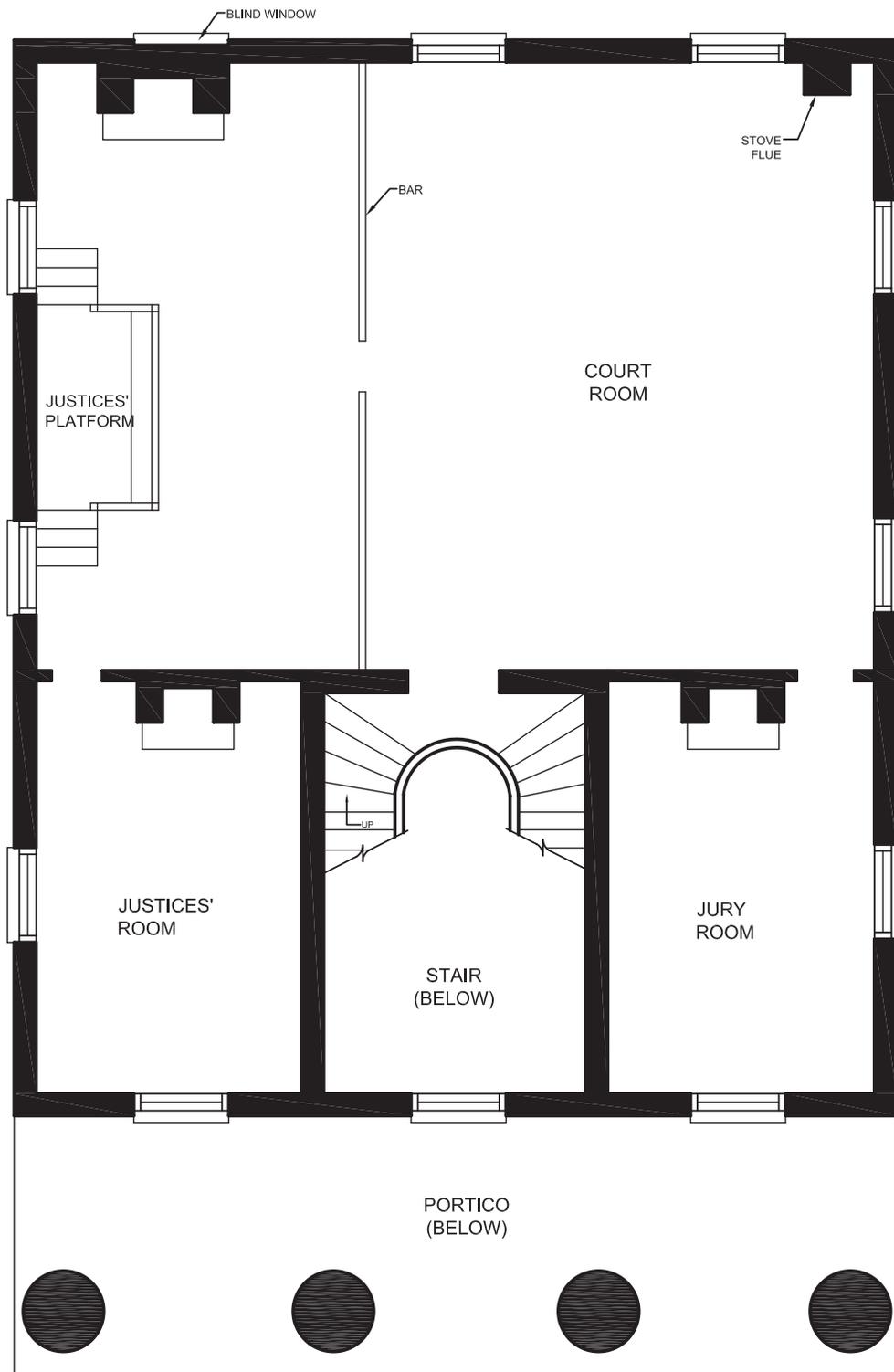


Figure 61. Courtroom plan in 1854, version 2.

Alternatively, if we suppose that the courtroom followed the Lunenburg arrangement, with the justices seated against the rear wall, then the chimney evidence is difficult to interpret. Both flues look to be of similar workmanship. Yet one seems to have blocked the rear window while the other seemingly did not.

The only way to decide the issue is to examine the physical evidence behind the plaster. We would expect to find evidence for where the ends of the bar—essentially a balustrade—plugged into the masonry walls, evidence for framing the justice’s platform and perhaps for erecting the sort of the paneling that often stood behind the bench. If some level of restoration is the long-term goal, finding and preserving this evidence would be very helpful.

#### *THE STAIR AND STAIRWELL*

Physical evidence suggests that the present stair of the 1854 building—and the space in which it rises—have been altered significantly. First, the well in which the stair rises has probably been shortened upstairs by an insertion of additional flooring near the front wall—where holding cells (Rooms 215 and 217) and the little hallway adjoining now are. That would account for the unusual configuration of the ceiling over the stair. Without this inserted flooring, the upper level of the stairwell would extend clear to the front wall, as it does below, and the window over the doorway would light the upper landing—a great improvement in the character of the space.

Second, it appears that the stair itself has been reconfigured at the top to create the present landing. The awkward joints in the upper railing, the unprecedented “lean” of the stringer at this point, and the unusually high baseboards above the intermediate landings all point to a major modification. The original stair was probably configured as a series of wedge-shaped steps, called “winders,” turning gradually through the upper corners of the space to arrive at a trapezoidal

landing—narrow in the front and broader at the courtroom door.

A likely motive for creating the present configuration was to deepen—and thus enlarge the landing—and also to eliminate the winders, which, being wedge-shaped, would have been perilously narrow at the inside railing.

If the stair really *has* changed as described, clear evidence for its original configuration will appear behind the baseboards at the corner landings. If restoration is contemplated, investigating this evidence would allow us to understand the original stair and the space in which it ascended.

#### *PLAN – THE 1939 WING*

Room 212 was subdivided at some point to create the present kitchenette space. This encumbers the front room and takes away from the usable office space of the third floor.

The partition should be removed.

#### *CEILING*

Like the third floor, the entire second floor has a textured ceiling of lay-in acoustical tiles, supported in a black-colored grid. This system was installed in 1976. It remains in good condition, except in the courtroom where it seems to have been damaged by condensation leaking from the air handlers above.

Subject to decisions about restoration of the courtroom, these tiles should be replaced.

#### *WALLS*

The plaster around the elevator shaft exhibits some damage from roof leaks. It is likely that the metal lathing in these badly damaged areas has deteriorated.

All affected plaster and lathing should be renewed, and the affected spaces repainted.

#### *FLOORS*

The floors are laid with vinyl composite tile dating from the 1976 renovation. These tiles are

now covered with carpet in the offices but remain exposed in the circulation areas.

Once roof repairs are complete, carpets should be replaced throughout the second floor. If the tile floors exposed as a result are in poor condition, they, too, should be replaced and the wooden substrate repaired as necessary in the 1939 wing.

#### *WINDOWS*

All windows are original to the construction periods of their respective additions. On the interior they appear to be in good condition.

#### *TOILETS*

The toilets in room 207 and 208 are deficient in regard to ADA access and other code requirements.

They should be upgraded to provide ADA-compliant access and to satisfy all other code requirements.

#### *FAN COIL AND ELECTRICAL BASEBOARD UNITS*

Evaluation of the MEP systems is beyond the scope of this study. However, some of these units may be approaching the end of their useful life. All should be evaluated as part of the survey called for in the Rehabilitation Recommendations – Priority II, below. The disposition of these systems should be determined before undertaking floor repairs.

#### *WATER COOLER*

The water cooler in Room 205 should be evaluated as part of the MEP/Communications survey called for in the Rehabilitation Recommendations – Priority II, below.

### *First Floor*

#### *GENERAL OBSERVATIONS*

The ground-floor rooms of the 1854 building remain in a very good state of repair. The office and toilets of the 1939 wing are less satisfactory and require attention.

#### *PLAN*

Partitions have been added, subdividing Rooms 106 and 109 of the 1939 wing. If these do not enhance the present function of the rooms, they should be removed and remaining finishes repaired as necessary.

#### *CEILING*

Like the other parts of the building, the entire second floor has a textured ceiling of lay-in acoustical tiles, supported in a black-colored grid. This system was installed in 1976. It remains in good condition.

#### *WALLS*

The plaster here exhibits little damage from water infiltration. In the 1939 wing, plywood paneling was installed during the time this area was used by the sheriff's department.

This paneling should be removed and the finishes behind repaired, as necessary.

#### *FLOORS*

The floors are laid with vinyl composite tile dating from the 1976 renovation. In the offices these tiles are now covered with carpet.

In the circulation areas, these tiles remain exposed. The carpets in the 1854 building remain in very good condition. In most rooms of the 1939 wing, the carpets are worn or stained, especially in Room 106.

Once roof repairs are complete, carpets throughout the first floor of the 1939 wing should be replaced. If the tile floors exposed as a result are in poor condition, they too, should be replaced, repairing the wooden substrate as necessary in the 1939 wing.

#### *WINDOWS*

All windows are original to the construction periods of their respective additions. On the interior they appear to be in good condition.

## *TOILETS*

The toilets in room 104 and 105 are deficient in regard to ADA access and other code requirements.

These toilet spaces should be upgraded to provide ADA-compliant access and to satisfy other code requirements.

## *FAN COIL AND ELECTRICAL BASEBOARD UNITS*

Evaluation of the MEP systems is beyond the scope of this study. However, some of these units may be approaching the end of their useful life. All should be evaluated as part of the survey called for in the Rehabilitation Recommendations – Priority II, below. The disposition of these systems should be determined before undertaking floor repairs.

## *WATER COOLER*

The water cooler in Room 111 should be evaluated as part of the MEP/Communications survey called for in the Rehabilitation Recommendations – Priority II, below.

## *CABINETS*

The base cabinets in Rooms 122 and 115 have each grown nasty in the compartment below the sink and should be either vigorously cleaned or replaced.

## *Basement*

### *WATER INFILTRATION*

*General District Courtroom (Room B5).* In heavy rainstorms, county employees report that water comes from the under the baseboard in the southwest corner of the basement courtroom (Room B5). Apparently, this water is present in quantities sufficient to stand an inch or more deep through much of the basement. How is this water getting in?

It does not appear that leaks from the flat roof above are involved. Water certainly is flowing down the sides of the elevator shaft and could

be making its way though the basement wall into the basement courtroom. However, it is difficult to see how the volume of water could be as great as reported, if that were really the problem. Moreover, water damage to the plaster *diminishes* as one descends from the upper floor to the basement—there is no indication of leaking on the back of the first-floor vault or on the lower reaches the elevator shaft. These facts rule out the roof as a contributing factor in flooding of the basement.

More likely is the possibility that subgrade wall penetrations on the south end of the 1939 wing are admitting water to the pipe chase that runs along the west wall of the courtroom (Room B5). At the south end of this chase, an exterior standpipe penetrates just above the basement floor and then connects to the sprinkler system running along the west wall. It appears that a proper seal was never established at this penetration—the excavation was simply filled with concrete. Three other penetrations are present, including a section of PVC pipe containing a copper water line and two conduits. That some water is coming in through these penetrations is evident from muddy stains on the masonry below them and from the rusted fittings of the sprinkler line, also situated below these entry points.

It is possible that additional water is getting in through another penetration above grade, situated directly over the others. A large duct, running on grade outside, penetrates the exterior wall and continues through the upper zone of the chase. On the exterior, the top of this duct has been crushed, opening a void over the top, so that water may be able to enter.

Finally, an alternate basement plan (Sheet 6 of the Moseley-Hening drawings) shows a 6" terra cotta footing drain running circuitously under the first-floor slab of the 1976 addition. The drawing directed that the contractor “Connect new footing drain to existing.” Such a drain could be a source of problems if the previously existing drain were obstructed. In that case, water could back up into

the new drain, discharging under the slab of the addition. Inevitably, this water would flow to some lower point, i.e., the chase in the courtroom. This could explain why plaster on the back wall of the courtroom—now trapped inside the chase—is deteriorated. The scenario could be worse if one or more of the rain leaders were hooked up to the foundation drain, and the drain was obstructed downstream from the leader.

To stop the infiltration of water in this area through wall penetrations and, potentially, from backflow of the external drainage system, several measures will be necessary.

Whatever the ultimate source of the water, at least some of it is coming through the penetrations in the foundation. It will be necessary, then, to excavate the exterior of the foundation, directly opposite the pipe chase, to uncover the subgrade penetrations, and to verify that the utilities in this hole are still in service and correctly connected to their respective systems.

In particular, it will be important to ascertain *what the PVC boot of the nearby rain leader connects to*. In any case, the rain leader should be modified temporarily to discharge above grade. At present, it may connect to the foundation drain or, worse still, to the PVC pipe penetrating the wall. Alternatively, the boot may connect to an independent drainage system, in which case, the system does not appear to be functioning properly and so should be replaced and the rain leader re-connected.

In any case, once the exterior excavation is complete, the following tasks need to be performed:

- Disconnect all the utilities at the wall penetrations.
- Rebuild the affected section of the masonry.
- Core-drill and sleeve new penetrations, consolidating the utilities into fewer apertures where possible.
- Reconnect the functioning utilities and properly seal the penetrations.

- Waterproof the new wall and backfill the excavation.

When all penetrations are properly secured, the accessible foundation of the 1939 wing should be exposed and new waterproofing applied. The exposed foundation and footings should first be cleaned and afterward covered with waterproofing membrane and protective drain board. Geo-textile should then be laid into the excavation, followed by a perforated foundation drain. A 6-inch-thick band of washed stone should fill the excavation up to finished grade.

Lastly, subject to recommendations of the mechanical engineer (see “Executive Summary – MEP/Communications Issues” above), replace the existing HVAC plant outside the courtroom with a split system, keeping the condenser in the small mechanical yard and hanging the air handler in the top of the pipe chase. This would eliminate the troublesome duct penetration, reduce the visual impact of the mechanical yard, and provide easier access to the rain leader.

**Electrical Room – (Room B8).** When the basement floods, water flows into the adjoining electrical closet (Room B8), where it has entirely destroyed the baseboard and the composite tile floor (Figure 62). Because there is no evidence of infiltration on the west wall, the pipe chase is almost certainly the source of this water.

The floor tile and baseboard in this room should be replaced in kind, replicating materials and workmanship.

**Basement Restroom (Room B9).** Across the hallway is a basement restroom (Room B9). Significantly, the plaster on the west wall is badly deteriorated, the damage ascending the wall from south to north (Figure 63). This suggests that the water is being introduced at the north end of the room.

It does not seem likely that this water comes from the failed valley on the front of the 1939 rear wing, since no evidence of water damage is visible at corresponding points on first or second floors. Likewise, it cannot be coming from the electri-



*Figure 62. Destroyed floor tiles in Room B8.*

cal closet, since a hallway (Room B7) effectively isolates the two rooms from one another.

Two other possibilities present themselves. First, the failed mortar joints in the steps and porch deck at the north entrance (into Room B111) may be admitting water to the earthen fill below (see Figure 29). This fill occurs at the junction of the 1854 building and the 1939 wing. Because the excavation for the wing was much deeper than for the courthouse, water entering through the failed joints might find its way into the builder's trench for the wing and thus through the west wall of the basement.

A second possibility is that one of the rain leaders on the north wall of the old courthouse is the source. That by the east end of the screened mechanical area runs down to a cast iron hub. If the sub-grade portion of this fitting has failed, it could be discharging water into the crawl space below the floor slab of the main building. In that case, water could flow eastward through the crawl space until it hits the backfilled excavation for the 1939 wing. If this fill was not compacted, it would become a collection point for the water, which would then penetrate the basement wall, flowing into the restroom. Either of these more

likely conditions would be very serious, tending to undermine the rear wall of the old courthouse.

At present there is no access to the crawl space of the 1854 courthouse. In 1975, however, the Moseley-Hening drawings showed an existing access on the north side of the 1854 building. A patch in the present sidewalk seems to indicate where this opening was (see Figure 27).

To ensure that water does not enter this crawl space and thus the basement of the wing, several measures will be necessary:

For purposes of ventilation and monitoring, permanent access to all areas of the old courthouse crawl space should be established. A possible location for one such would be in the west wall of the hallway (Room B7), since this space is under the courthouse and would not require penetration of a perimeter foundation wall.

We have already discussed the necessity of replacing the roof, along with all gutters and rain leaders (see "Exterior – Roof").

As on the south side of the building, it will be necessary to replace the drainage system for taking storm water away from the north wall of the old courthouse.

Additionally, the steps, the deck, and the cheek walls of the north porch should be dismantled and rebuilt with a crawl space and an at-grade access at the north end so that any penetrating water can be intercepted and redirected to the exterior. At the same time, waterproofing should be applied to secure the area at the junction of the buildings from infiltration (for further details on waterproofing, see “Priority II - Repairs” in Chapter 4, below).

Finally, repair of the gutters, mentioned above, will diminish the volumes of water being emptied onto this porch.

As for the toilet room, toilet facilities should be upgraded to meet ADA access requirements and other codes. (Currently, the facilities are designed to serve males only.) Furthermore, all damaged plaster and lathing should be renewed and a new rubber baseboard installed throughout.



*Figure 63. Damaged plaster on west wall of Room B9.*

## 4: Rehabilitation Recommendations

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Recommendations for rehabilitation of the courthouse are compiled here under three priorities:

- Priority I – Current hazards and imminent structural failure.
- Priority II – Significant, ongoing deterioration.
- Priority III – Utilization and long-term stabilization.

All proposed work should be reviewed in the planning phase by VDHR and should be performed in accordance with *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* (see Chapter 8).

### ***PRIORITY I***

#### ***Structural Survey and Emergency Remedial Work***

- Engage a structural engineer *immediately* to conduct a comprehensive structural survey of the building. On the basis of that survey, the engineer should formulate a prioritized program of remedial measures, taking into account anticipated uses of the building, present roof loads, and anticipated roof loads, if the covering changes according to the recommendations in this report. *Present conditions at the base of the cupola make this survey an urgent matter.*
- Until the engineer's recommendations for remediation of the cupola and portico ceiling are reported and fully implemented, measures should be taken to protect county employees and the public from falling debris in this area.

- No roofing work (Priority II, below) should be undertaken until the engineer's recommendations for structural remediation of the roof have been fully implemented.
- No re-occupation of the upper floors of the building should occur until all recommendations of the structural engineer are fully implemented.

### ***Walks and Steps***

- Repair uneven pavements, steps, or any other walking surface that might pose a tripping hazard, saving and cleaning all brick possible, or where necessary, replacing in kind.
- All visible work should match the existing in materials and workmanship.
- On certain parts of the site, this work will have to be coordinated with replacement of the sub-grade drainage systems. (Priority II, below). Until that drainage work is completed, close off access to all unrepaired areas that pose tripping hazards.

### ***PRIORITY II***

#### ***MEP/Communications Survey***

- A mechanical engineer should conduct a comprehensive survey of the building's MEP and communications systems, and on the basis of that survey, to formulate a program of remedial measures, taking into account the anticipated uses of the building.

## *Code Review*

- Engage an architect to undertake a comprehensive code review. This review should determine which codes are applicable in view of projected work, and then evaluate the implications of compliance with those codes. That evaluation should take into account anticipated uses of the building. On the basis of this study, the architect should develop recommendations for implementation. These will probably include removal of the existing fire escape and provision of a new fire exit stair.

## *Fire Detection and Suppression Survey*

- Engage a certified fire protection engineer to evaluate the building's fire detection and suppression needs, and on the basis of that survey, develop a program of recommendations, taking into account the anticipated uses of the building.
- This could be handled through the architect in conjunction with the code review, or it could be performed by an independent consultant.
- In the latter case, the code review and fire protection survey would need to be coordinated closely.

## *Repairs*

### *ROOF*

- Once the roof and cupola are structurally secure, install a new standing-seam covering of copper, with appropriate underlayments, necessary flashings, and snow stops, repairing the substrate as necessary.
- Detail the new installation according to traditional practice at the ridges, eaves, and valleys.
- Renew the covering of the flat deck with a membrane roof, repairing and re-grading the underlying deck as necessary.

### *GUTTERS AND RAIN LEADERS*

- Replace existing gutters with half-round gutters of copper, suspended from hangers attached to the roof deck and framing.
- Replace all rain leaders in 4" with copper down-conductors, fitting each with an overflow device at the lower end.

### *CORNICE*

- Remove and replace damaged portions of the cornice at the junction of the 1854 Building and the 1939 Wing.
- All new material should be old-growth heart pine, replicating existing profiles.
- Treat and back-prime all new work.

### *GENERAL WATER PENETRATION – 1939 WING*

- To address general water penetration problems, the accessible foundations of the 1939 wing should be excavated and newly waterproofed, after penetrations at the south end of the building have been properly sealed (see discussion below). The exposed foundation and footings should first be cleaned and afterward covered with waterproofing membrane and protective drain board. Geo-textile should then be laid into the excavation, followed by a perforated foundation drain. A 6" thick band of washed stone should fill the excavation up to finished grade.

### *SUBSURFACE WALL PENETRATIONS:*

#### *SOUTH WALL – 1939 WING*

- Excavate and disconnect the systems at these penetrations. Verify that they are still in service and correctly connected to their respective systems.
- If the PVC boot at the rain leader connects to a foundation drain, or to the PVC pipe now penetrating the wall, disconnect the rain leader and modify it temporarily to discharge at grade.

- Rebuild the affected section of the masonry wall, replicating the original materials and workmanship to assure continued stability of the wall.
- When adequate strength has been achieved, core-drill and sleeve new penetrations, consolidating apertures where possible.
- Reconnect the utilities, and properly seal the penetrations.

#### *SUBSURFACE DRAINAGE SYSTEMS*

- Replace the subsurface drainage systems on the north and south sides of the building, taking care that the new system does *not* connect to existing foundation drains or to any pipe that enters the building.
- Replacement would embrace all piping from Court Street back to the associated leaders on the north side of the building, and from Court Street back to the catch basin in the south yard.
- Test the drains in the sunken areas on the east side of the building to ensure they are functioning properly and to locate the point where each “goes to daylight.” If necessary, clean or replace these lines.

#### *NORTH PORCH – 1939 WING*

- Dismantle the existing porch, steps, and cheek wall, salvaging and cleaning all brick possible.
- Rebuild the porch over a crawl space, with a pitched concrete slab in that space to capture and redirect infiltrating water to the exterior.
- Within this crawl space and behind the slab waterproof the adjacent walls of the existing wings.
- The new deck and steps should be made of granite, matching the early window sills of the 1854 building.

### *PRIORITY III*

#### *Repairs – Exterior*

##### *NORTH PEDIMENT – 1939 BUILDING*

- Repair the attic vent of the north pediment, replacing trim and other components as necessary and in kind.

##### *EXTERIOR DOORS AND FRAMES*

- Repair the bottoms of exterior doors and, if necessary, the bottoms of the frames and/or trim. Match existing materials, moldings, and workmanship. Affected locations include:
  - Exterior Doorway – Room B5 (Old Basement Courtroom).
  - Exterior Doorway – Room B3 (Hallway).
  - Exterior Doorway – Room 110 (South Entry – 1976 Addition).
  - Exterior Doorway – Room 111 (North Entry – 1939 Hallway).
  - Exterior Doorway – Room 110 – (West Entry – 1976 Addition)

##### *PEDIMENT – 1854 BUILDING*

- Remove nails from the metal coping of the entablature, and replace missing sections of the filler strip behind. Turn the metal back down over this strip and re-nail.
- Treat and back-prime all new work.

##### *WIRES AND CONDUITS*

- Subject to a comprehensive review of MEP and communications by an engineer, remove all conduits and wires from the exterior of the building.

##### *MASONRY*

- When all wiring and conduits have been removed, patch all penetrations, replacing bricks as necessary for larger openings, or

filling smaller holes with lime mortar, tinted with brick dust.

- Dismantle and rebuild the planter on the west front of the 1976 addition, salvaging and cleaning the original brick. This should stand on a new foundation, and the new work should match the original in materials and workmanship.
- In the two sunken areas east of the building, clean and repoint the joint at the bottom course of each cheek wall.
- Subject to recommendations of the structural engineer, mentioned above, repair structural cracks between the north windows of the first and second floor. Color-wash the new work, to match existing.
- If the present portico deck is to remain, recaulk the bases of the portico columns.

#### *PAINTING*

- Clean, prep, and repaint all exterior mill-work.
- If funding does not allow for a full repainting, the windows, the north pediment, the cornice at the junction of the 1854 and 1939 buildings, the exterior doors of the 1939 wing, and the attic vent of the 1854 building are the priorities.
- Among the windows, those in the exposed locations of the 1854 building are most important. The 1939 windows are next.
- Clean, prep, and paint the steel grating over the areaway on the north end of the 1939 Wing.
- Clean, prep and paint the metal beads at the arrises of the portico columns, and paint the columns.

#### *MISCELLANEOUS*

- Replace hose bib handle, east elevation.

## *Interior Repairs/Alterations*

#### *CODE COMPLIANCE*

- Implement all other necessary upgrades to comply with applicable codes, as per the findings of the Code Review called for in the Priority II recommendations above.
- Anticipated areas of change include, but are not limited to, toilets, egress, and access.
- Because current building codes no longer recognize an exterior fire escape as a compliant means of egress, the present fire escape will need to be removed, subject to the findings of the fire safety survey called for elsewhere in this report. Also, a new fire exit stair probably will be required.
- These changes must be fully implemented before the upper floors of the building are re-occupied.

#### *SYSTEMS*

- Upgrade existing MEP and communications systems according to recommendations set out in the MEP/Communications Survey called for in the Priority II Recommendations, above.

#### *REMOVALS*

- Remove all carpets except on the ground floor of the 1854 building.
- Remove recent partitions in Rooms 106, 109, 212, and 303, making necessary repairs to the adjoining finishes.
- Remove wall-mounted ash trays in elevator lobbies.
- Remove kitchen cabinets and plumbing in Room 212, making necessary repairs to adjoining finishes.
- Remove the dais, all courtroom fixtures, and all modern finishes in Room 213 (second-floor courtroom), making all repairs to the finishes left behind.

- Remove the stair in Room 212 (modern jury room)
- Remove all security apparatus in the holding cells (Rooms 215 and 217).

#### *TOILETS*

- Expand toilet areas to make adequate provision for both sexes, providing ADA compliant access and fittings.

#### *FLOORS*

- Replace all floor tiles in Rooms 110, 201, 301, 311, and throughout the basement, matching existing tiles in the adjoining spaces as closely as possible. Also, replace damaged floor tiles in other spaces, repairing the wood substrate where necessary.
- Install new carpet throughout the building, except in rest rooms and basement rooms B3 and B8.

#### *WALLS*

- Reconstruct the closet partition adjoining Room 304.

#### *CEILINGS*

- Replace damaged ceiling tiles in Room 313.

#### *PLASTER*

- Repair all damaged plaster and renew lathing as required.

#### *PAINTING*

- Except in the ground-floor rooms of the 1854 building, re-paint all interior millwork and plaster except for naturally-finished elements.
- Repaint all interior plaster and drywall, allowing at least two months for the plaster to cure before applying finishes.

#### *REVIEW*

Any contemplated changes should be reviewed by VDHR during the planning phase. All work should be performed in accordance with *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*.



## 5: Restoration Recommendations

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### *1854 BUILDING*

#### *Exterior*

If funding allows for treatment of the 1854 and 1939 buildings as historic structures, we recommend a program of *incremental* restoration for the 1854 building and preservation of the 1939 wing, consisting initially of the following *added* measures:

#### *SHUTTERS*

Recreate shutters for all early windows, with hardware for holding them open and also for securing them when they are shut. The new shutters should be detailed from historical photographs, taking construction details from surviving examples of the correct period and character.

#### *FRONT DOORWAY*

Substitute a solid sill of walnut or old-growth heart pine for the present masonry sill. Alternatively, the existing stone should be extended across the entire opening, taking care to match its composition and finish.

Replace the missing muntins that once divided the present lower section of each sidelight unit.

#### *PORTICO PAVEMENT*

Restore portico pavement using hand-made brick pavers, dry-laid tight, with lime-based grout rubbed into the interstices. There should be granite edging at the perimeter with tooled vertical edges and a dull, not-quite-honed finish on the top face.

### *NORTH AND SOUTH DOORWAYS*

Consideration should be given to restoring vanished doorways on the north and south elevations.

If exits in these locations are inconsistent with present requirements, perhaps the doorways could be properly restored and simply fixed shut.

Either way, it would be necessary to remove the fan-coil units now below the sills, making compensations to meet the needs of the affected spaces for heating and cooling.

### *CHIMNEYS/STACKS*

A total of four chimneys originally heated the two front rooms on the upper floor and also the northeastern corner of the courtroom. It would be very difficult to restore these chimneys without disturbing the ground floor substantially. The chimneys in the courtroom would be easier to recreate, but it would make little sense to recreate these without also recreating the ones in front.

#### *Interior*

Though the character of the stair and of the rooms for jury and justices seems clear enough, we do not yet know enough about the character of the original courtroom—or indeed the ground floor—to offer recommendations for interior restoration. In any case, the difficulty of putting back the chimneys would be a major obstacle in any attempt at an interior restoration.

Nonetheless information about the early building is worth pursuing. If our suppositions concerning the layout of the courtroom are correct, we

would expect to find evidence for where the ends of the bar—essentially a balustrade—plugged into the masonry walls. On the north wall, there may be evidence for framing the justice’s platform and perhaps for the sort of the paneling that often stood behind the bench. If some level of restoration is the long-term goal, finding this evidence—or at least preserving it—would be very helpful.

It is our recommendation, then that subsurface probes be undertaken to flesh out understanding of the original building.

### *REVIEW*

Whatever the projected changes, they should be reviewed with VDHR in the planning phase. Here, as in the case of rehabilitation, all work should be performed in accordance with *The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*.

## 6: Space Allocation

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### OFFICES

Presumably the renovated building would be occupied mostly by county offices. It is important, then, to consider the spaces that would be available for office functions—and to estimate how many people they could reasonably accommodate.

The gross square footage of the building is approximately 18,440 square feet. If we exclude the second-floor courtroom, as well as all bathrooms, service spaces, and circulation areas, the building provides about 8,450 net square feet of administrative space, distributed on four floors.

Assuming that:

- Subdivided offices are re-opened per the recommendations in this report
- Restrooms are expanded per the recommendations in this report
- Each person has natural light and a minimum of 100 square feet in which to work
- Present arrangements on the ground-floor of the 1854 building remain unchanged

Then the building could reasonably accommodate a total of 66 persons, distributed as follows:

- Basement 13
- First floor 24
- Second Floor 14
- Third Floor 15

If we divide B5 (basement courtroom) into two offices and then assume that no office would contain more than two persons, then the total number of persons accommodated diminishes to 56, distributed as follows:

- Basement 9
- First floor 18
- Second Floor 14
- Third Floor 15

If we assume that all offices would be *single* occupancy, the total number of persons accommodated diminishes to 35, distributed as follows:

- Basement 6
- First floor 13
- Second Floor 8
- Third Floor 8

Depending on the recommendations of the engineer, some mechanical space might be required—possibly in the old basement courtroom. This would be an ideal location if the bathrooms were moved to this end of the building—a number of utilities enter the building here and new risers could run through or adjacent to the new bathrooms for distribution though the remainder of the building. Under the assumptions outlined above, this would reduce to 35 the number of persons accommodated in the building as a whole, and the allocations for the individual floors would be as follows:

- Basement 3
- First floor 14
- Second Floor 9
- Third Floor 9

Making allowance for the need to expand the restrooms, then, it appears that the renovated

structure could accommodate between 35 and 66 persons on four floors, depending on the choice between single and multiple occupancies of certain offices, and concurrent choices about mechanical systems.

### *SECOND-FLOOR COURTROOM*

Ideally, the second-floor courtroom would be retained for public assembly. In that case, some provision for restrooms will be needed nearby. If the expanded second and third-floor restrooms could stand at the south end of the 1939 wing, op-

posite the elevator, this might provide the needed facilities. This option should be considered in the code review.

### *OTHER FUNCTIONS*

As a consequence of the 1976 modifications, the longitudinal corridors on each floor of the 1939 wing receive no natural light. These spaces could continue in their present use as circulation, to which other functions demanding no natural light—copying, supply storage, coffeemaker, etc.—could be added.

## 7: Executive Summary

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### **REHABILITATION RECOMMENDATIONS**

The larger structure is partially occupied. On the ground floor employees currently use all spaces except Rooms 108 and 109. In the basement, all rooms except B8 (Electrical Room) and B5 (Courtroom) are being used. To put the courthouse in a condition to be re-occupied on the upper floors would be a major task. In the meantime, it is necessary to address some critical structural issues and some tripping hazards. These are Priority I items, demanding immediate attention.

Priority II items are intended to halt deterioration of the building and to advance planning for the building's future. These, too, have a certain urgency.

Finally, Priority III items are necessary to prepare the building for occupancy and to ensure its long-term stability.

### **Priority I**

#### **STRUCTURAL ISSUES**

Inspection of the structural system and recommendations for remedial measures are not within the scope of this study. However, several conditions noted in our survey are cause for concern, though we make no representation that the following list is exhaustive:

- Roof leaks have compromised one of the trusses and also the girder that supports the north side of the cupola.
- Accumulated bird droppings under the cupola hold moisture and thus hasten the deterioration of the lightly framed portico ceiling. At

the same time, they increase the loads on this fragile area, which stands directly above the front door.

- All four valleys at the junction of the 1939 and 1854 roofs were originally supported by discontinuous rafters. At some point these members were supplemented with additional framing, but sprinkler piping has since punched through this added framing.

#### *Recommendation:*

- A structural engineer should be engaged *immediately* to inspect the building and formulate a program of remedial measures. *The conditions at the cupola make this a matter of some urgency. Until the engineer's recommendations for remediation of the cupola and portico ceiling are reported and fully implemented, measures should be taken in this area to protect county employees and the public from falling debris.*

#### **TRIPPING HAZARDS**

Pavements and steps are cracked and heaved in certain areas, especially south of the building. These are unsightly, but the urgency about these spots involves the tripping hazards these areas pose.

#### *Recommendation:*

- Uneven pavements and steps should be taken up, a proper substrate prepared, and new pavements or steps put down, reusing the existing bricks.

## *Priority II*

### *CODE ISSUES*

Although a code review lies outside the scope of this study, it is clear that many aspects of the building are problematic in relation to current building codes—especially those concerning rest rooms and fire egress. These must be addressed if the building is to be re-occupied. Even with partial occupation of the lower floors, these are a pressing concern.

#### *Recommendation:*

- A comprehensive code analysis should be undertaken by an architect to determine which codes apply to any projected work, and to evaluate the building for compliance with those codes.

### *FIRE SAFETY ISSUES*

Evaluation of present fire safety systems lies beyond the scope of this study. However, the frame floor construction of the four-story height of the 1939 wing, with its frame floor construction and non-compliant egress routes leave no doubt that fire safety is and will remain a major issue in this building. This will require attention if the county is to fully re-occupy the building.

#### *Recommendations:*

- Through the architect, or independently, engage a certified fire protection engineer to evaluate the building's fire detection and suppression needs, and on the basis of that survey, develop a program of recommendations, taking into account the anticipated uses of the building.
- The code review and fire protection survey would need to be coordinated closely.

### *MEP/COMMUNICATIONS ISSUES*

MEP and communications systems lie outside the scope of this study, however several observations indicate that these, too, require attention.

Noted problems include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Access to mechanical equipment over the old courthouse is quite difficult, as there are no walkways in the 1854 attic, and blown-in insulation has obscured all the framing. For the sake of service personnel, and to ensure that equipment is properly maintained, it is important to upgrade access to and through the attic.
- MEP equipment is at least 33 years old in most cases and is approaching the end of its useful life. The air distribution system over the courtroom is of poor quality, being composed of duct board and seated on billets of Styrofoam.
- The communications system is obsolete in the upper floors of the building.

#### *Recommendations:*

- Engage a mechanical engineer to conduct a comprehensive assessment of all MEP and communications systems, formulating recommendations for the upgrade or replacement of existing systems.

### *WATER ISSUES*

- The infiltration of water in large quantities has been a serious and persistent problem in this building.
- In the basement it is coming through multiple sub-grade penetrations on the south wall of the old General District Court Room, through the front porch of the 1939 annex, and possibly from blocked drains serving the rain leaders.
- Additional leaks have been identified in the roof—at the flat roof over the elevator shaft and at one of the valleys of the slate roof. The slate roof is quite fragile, and any attempt to repair the failed areas and to replace the many missing and broken slates will likely result in more damage.

### *Recommendations:*

- To halt roof leaks, replace the present covering, along with all flashings and snow stops, correcting structural problems in the roof and repairing damaged substrate and framing prior to the new installation. For practical, economical, and historical reasons, the new covering should be standing-seam copper, installed in such a way as to reflect historical roofing practice. This will produce a durable, maintenance-free roof, reduce dead loads on the 1854 and 1839 roof framing, and return the oldest portion of the courthouse to something like its original appearance. Relative to slate, it will be an economical roof to install, and its lighter color will reflect more incident radiation than the present slates, and so will reduce cooling loads on the building.
- To halt infiltration of water through multiple sub-grade penetrations on the south end of the 1939 wing, disconnect the systems at these penetrations, rebuild the affected section of the wall, and when adequate strength has been achieved, core-drill and sleeve new penetrations, reconnect the utilities, and properly seal these penetrations.
- To prevent infiltration of water from failed subsurface drainage systems, clear or replace the subsurface drainage systems serving rain leaders on the north and south sides of the building.
- When all penetrations are properly secured, the accessible foundation of the 1939 wing should be exposed and new waterproofing applied. The exposed foundation and footings should first be cleaned and afterward covered with waterproofing membrane and protective drain board. Geo-textile should then be laid into the excavation, followed by a perforated foundation drain. A 6" thick band of washed stone should fill the excavation up to finished grade.
- To stop the infiltration of water from the north steps, dismantle the steps and the adjoining

cheek wall, salvaging and cleaning all brick possible. Rebuild this porch over a crawl space having a pitched concrete floor with an at-grade access at the north end. Waterproof the adjacent walls of the existing wings. Steps and deck should be made of granite, matching the early sills of the 1854 windows.

- To eliminate the large duct penetration now visible above grade replace the HVAC system now serving the old basement court room (Room B5), subject to the assessment of a mechanical engineer.

### *Priority III*

These repairs are directed at ensuring the long-term stability of the building and preparing it for occupation. Most involve cleaning up the exterior of the building and painting the exterior millwork. Interior repairs are focused mainly on the renewal of finishes and with achieving a code-complaint building. These recommendations are detailed in Chapter 4. All proposed work should be reviewed in the planning phase by VDHR and performed in accordance with *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*.

### *RESTORATION RECOMMENDATIONS*

#### *Exterior*

It is recommended that the county take steps—gradually—to move the exterior of the building back to its historical appearance. This would be a partial restoration, embracing only those steps that would not compromise the utility of the building. This restoration would focus on four things:

- Recreate the original shutters, hinges and holdbacks
- Repair the sidelights of the front doorway and front doorway and restore the sill of this doorway.

- Renew the paving of the portico, introducing historically appropriate material and techniques.
- Restore the original doorways on either flank of the 1854 building.

### *Interior*

We do not yet know enough about the original character of the building's plan and interior to make adequate recommendations for such a restoration. We recommend that a series of subsurface probes be undertaken to determine what can be known of the original courtroom. As in the case of rehabilitation, all proposed work should be reviewed in the planning phase by VDHR and performed in accordance with *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*.

## 8: Further Reading

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The following sources will be useful in making the masonry repairs called for in this report:

Lynch, Gerard

2009 *Bricks: A Guide to the Repair of Historic Brickwork*. Department of Environment, Heritage, and Local Government, Dublin, Ireland.

This is the definitive guide, based on current practice in the UK.

McKee, Harley J.

1980 *Introduction to Early American Masonry*. National Trust for Historic Preservation, Washington, D.C.

This is a useful introduction to the subject.

Mack, Robert C., and John Speweik

1998 *Repointing Mortar Joints in Historic Masonry Buildings*. Technical Preservation Services, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.  
Web link: <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/TPS/briefs/brief02.htm>

Available on line, this is not as authoritative as Lynch's guide.

### *FEDERAL STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES*

In addition to the above sources, the following U.S. Government publications may prove useful:

Weeks, Kay D., and Anne E. Grimmer

1995 *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Illustrated Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings*. National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

The 1995 Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties are regulations (36 CFR 68) used within the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) grant-in-aid program to states, tribes, and local governments. They are also used by federal agencies and have been adopted by many local historic district commissions nationwide. Updated guidelines in a recommended/not recommended format address all four work options offered in the Standards, as applied to historic buildings. They are useful to anyone undertaking a historic preservation project on a historic building. 188 pages. 79 illustrations. *GPO stock number: 024-005-01157-9. \$29.50 per copy.*

*Printed Version available at:* <http://www.nps.gov/hps/TPS/tpscat.htm>

*Digital Version is available at:* [http://www.nps.gov/hps/TPS/standards/standards\\_complete.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/hps/TPS/standards/standards_complete.pdf)

*Preservation Briefs 1-44* provide detailed information about a variety of issues related to the preservation of old buildings. Numbers 2, 3, 9, 17, 18, and 39 have particular relevance to this project.

*Printed Versions available at:* <http://bookstore.gpo.gov/actions/GeneralSearch.do>

*Titles and links to digital versions:*

[\*\*Preservation Brief 1: The Cleaning and Waterproof Coating of Masonry Buildings\*\*](#)

[\*\*Preservation Brief 2: Repointing Mortar Joints in Historic Masonry Buildings\*\*](#)

[Preservation Brief 3: Conserving Energy in Historic Buildings](#)

[Preservation Brief 4: Roofing for Historic Buildings](#)

[Preservation Brief 5: Preservation of Historic Adobe Buildings](#)

[Preservation Brief 6: Dangers of Abrasive Cleaning to Historic Buildings](#)

[Preservation Brief 7: The Preservation of Historic Glazed Architectural Terra-Cotta](#)

[Preservation Brief 8: Aluminum and Vinyl Siding on Historic Buildings](#)

[Preservation Brief 9: The Repair of Historic Wooden Windows](#)

[Preservation Brief 10: Exterior Paint Problems on Historic Woodwork](#)

[Preservation Brief 11: Rehabilitating Historic Storefronts](#)

[Preservation Brief 12: The Preservation of Historic Pigmented Structural Glass \(Vitrolite and Carrara Glass\)](#)

[Preservation Brief 13: The Repair and Thermal Upgrading of Historic Steel Windows](#)

[Preservation Brief 14: New Exterior Additions to Historic Buildings: Preservation Concerns](#)

[Preservation Brief 15: Preservation of Historic Concrete: Problems and General Approaches](#)

[Preservation Brief 16: The Use of Substitute Materials on Historic Building Exteriors](#)

[Preservation Brief 17: Architectural Character: Identifying the Visual Aspects of Historic Buildings as an Aid to Preserving Their Character](#)

[Preservation Brief 18: Rehabilitating Interiors in Historic Buildings](#)

[Preservation Brief 19: The Repair and Replacement of Historic Wooden Shingle Roofs](#)

[Preservation Brief 20: The Preservation of Historic Barns](#)

[Preservation Brief 21: Repairing Historic Flat Plaster -- Walls and Ceilings](#)

[Preservation Brief 22: The Preservation and Repair of Historic Stucco](#)

[Preservation Brief 23: Preserving Historic Ornamental Plaster](#)

[Preservation Brief 24: Heating, Ventilating, and Cooling Historic Buildings](#)

[Preservation Brief 25: The Preservation of Historic Signs](#)

[Preservation Brief 26: The Preservation of Historic Log Buildings](#)

[Preservation Brief 27: The Maintenance and Repair of Architectural Cast Iron](#)

[Preservation Brief 28: Painting Historic Interiors](#)

[Preservation Brief 29: The Repair, Replacement and Maintenance of Historic Slate Roofs](#)

[Preservation Brief 30: The Preservation and Repair of Historic Clay Tile Roofs](#)

[Preservation Brief 31: Mothballing Historic Buildings](#)

[Preservation Brief 32: Making Historic Properties Accessible](#)

[Preservation Brief 33: The Preservation and Repair of Historic Stained and Leaded Glass](#)

[Preservation Brief 34: Preserving Composition Ornament](#)

[Preservation Brief 35: Understanding Old Buildings: The Process of Architectural Investigation](#)

[Preservation Brief 36: Protecting Cultural Landscapes: Planning, Treatment and Management of Historic Landscapes](#)

Preservation Brief 37: Appropriate Methods for Reducing Lead-Paint Hazards in Historic Housing

Preservation Brief 38: Removing Graffiti from Historic Masonry

Preservation Brief 39: Holding the Line: Controlling Unwanted Moisture in Historic Buildings

Preservation Brief 40: Preserving Historic Ceramic Tile Floors

Preservation Brief 41: The Seismic Retrofit of Historic Buildings: Keeping Preservation in the Forefront

Preservation Brief 42: The Maintenance, Repair and Replacement of Historic Cast Stone

Preservation Brief 43: The Preparation and Use of Historic Structure Reports

Preservation Brief 44: The Use of Awnings on Historic Buildings: Repair, Replacement and New Design



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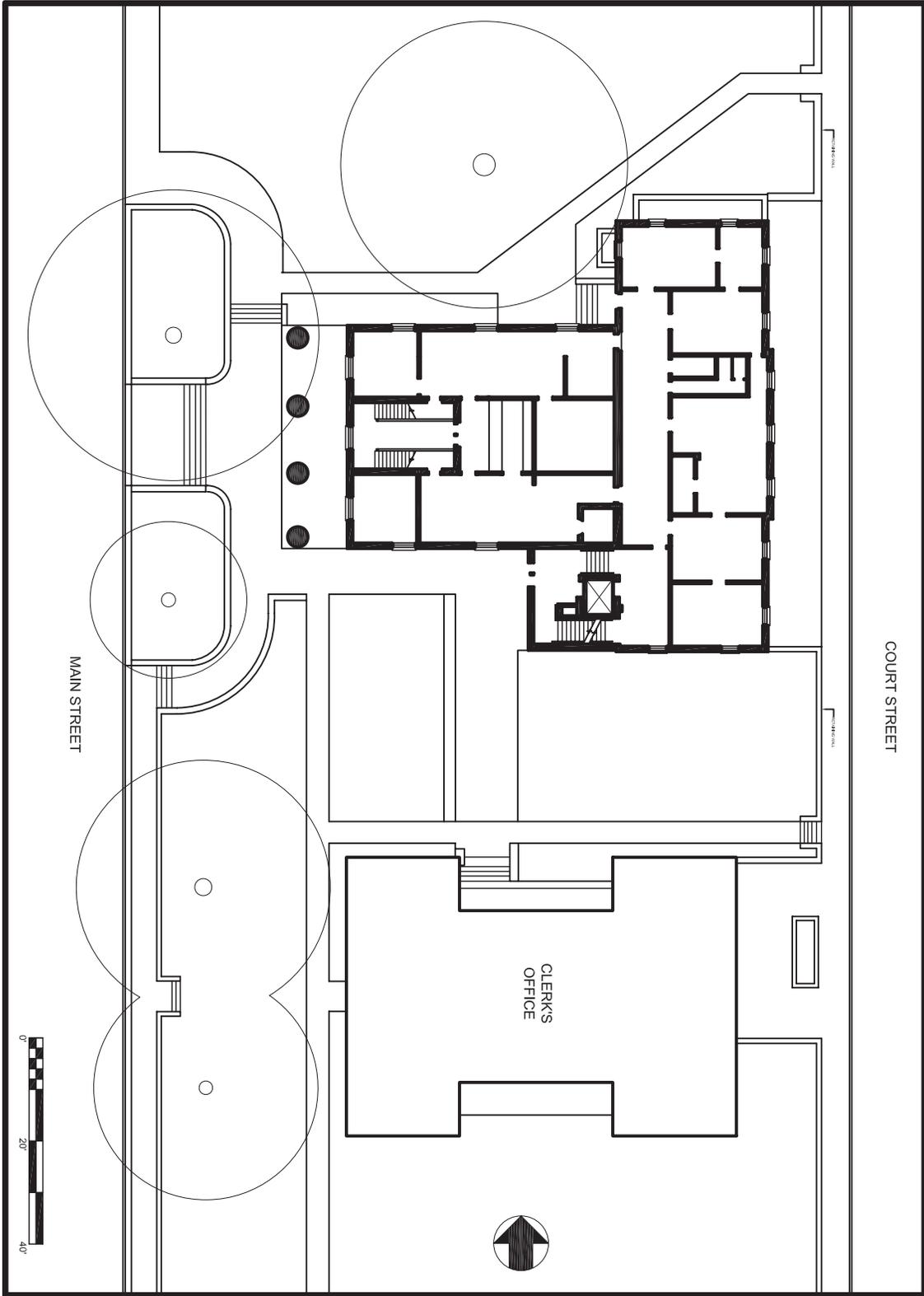
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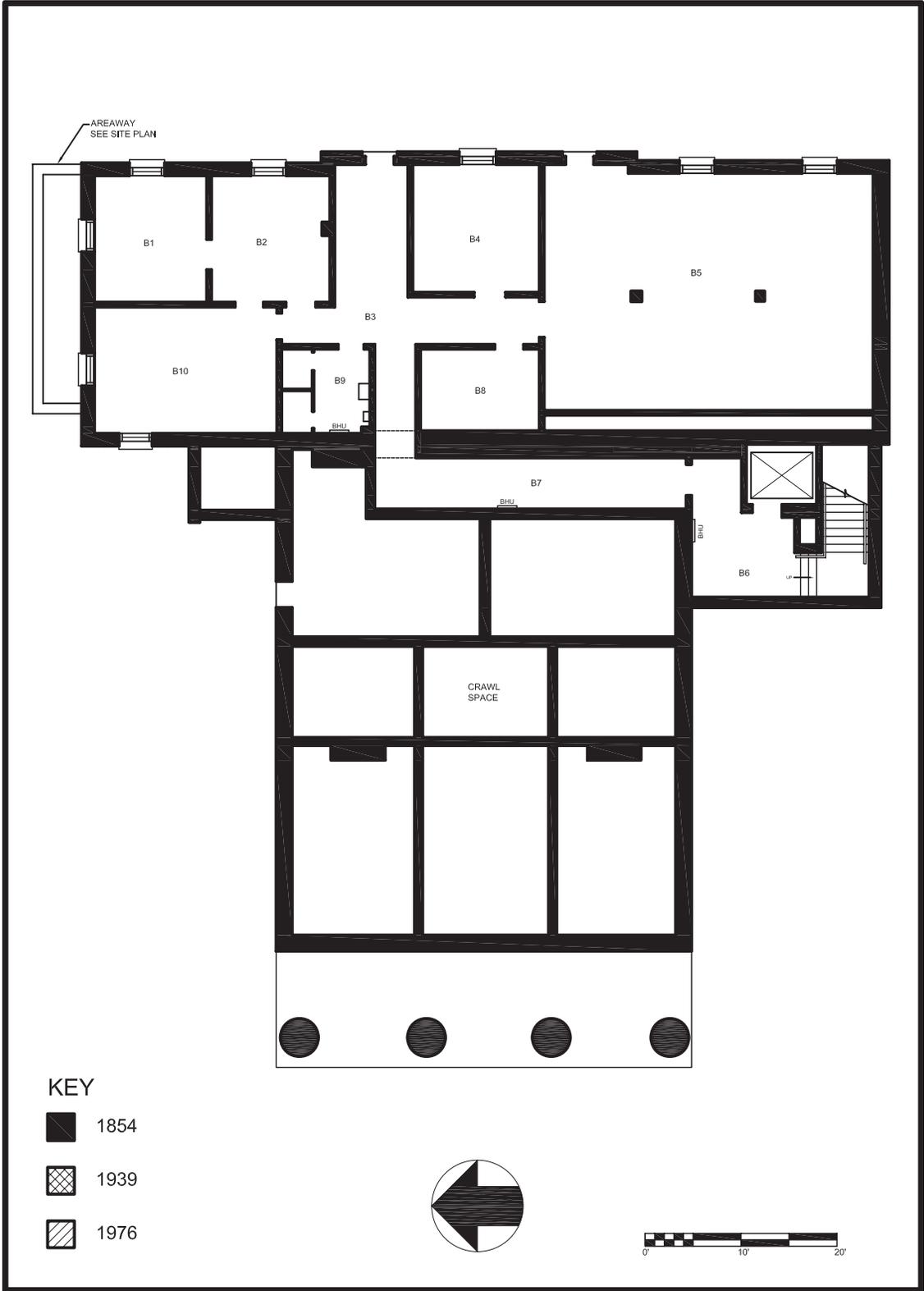
*Appendix A:*  
Architectural Drawings of Courthouse

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<p><b>SP.1</b></p> <p>DRAWING NO. SEPT/EMER/8.2/100</p> <p>DATE JAN/08</p> <p>DRAWN BY JIN/08</p> <p>COMMISSION NO.</p>	<p><b>BRUNSWICK COUNTY COURTHOUSE</b></p> <p><b>SITE PLAN</b></p>	<p><b>MESICK*COHEN*WILSON*BAKER*ARCHITECTS</b></p> <p>388 BROADWAY ALBANY, NY 12207 p. (518)433-9394 f. (518)433-9397</p> <p>3302 CRAGGY OAK COURT WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23188 p. (757)221-0713 f. (757)221-0714</p>
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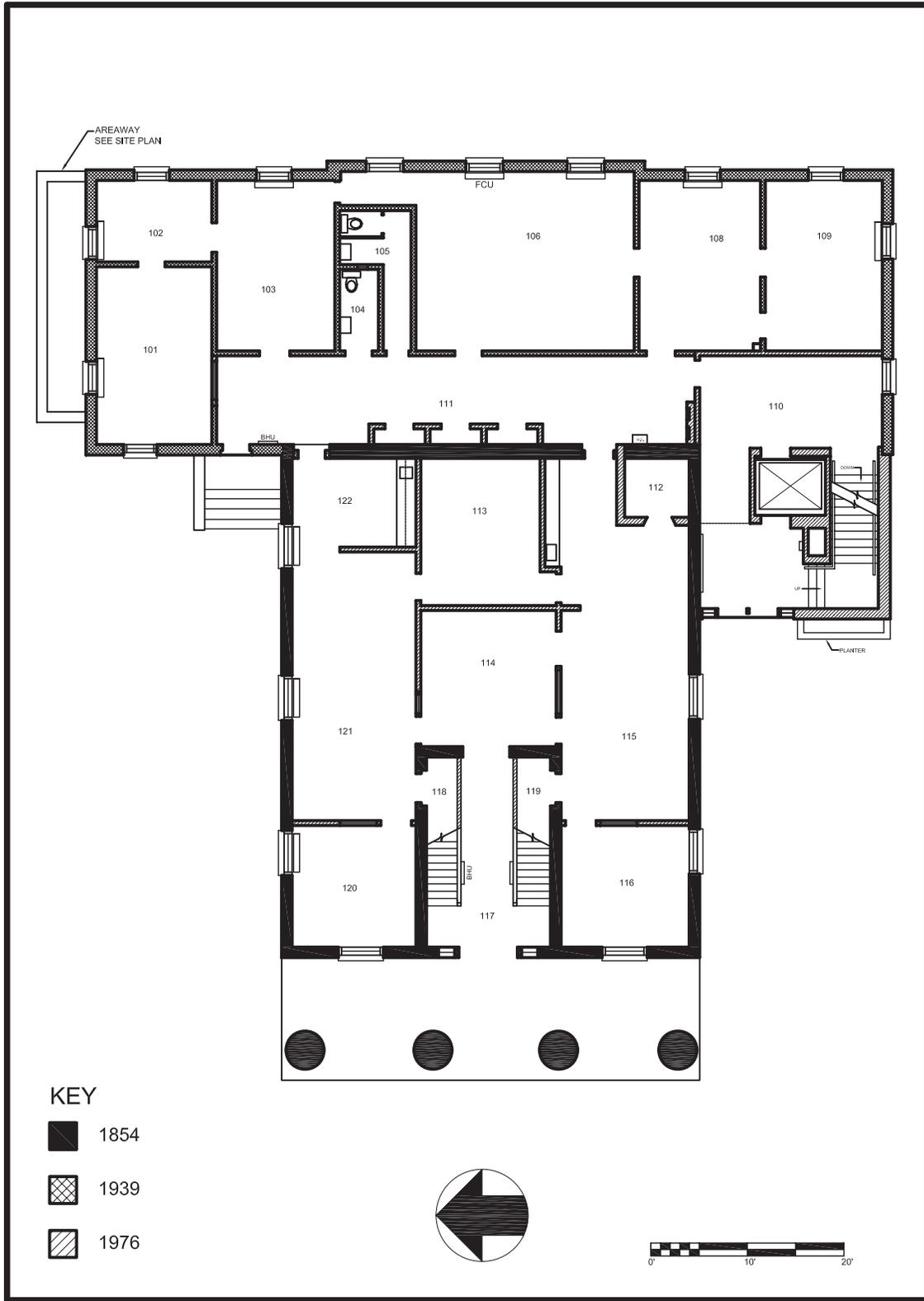


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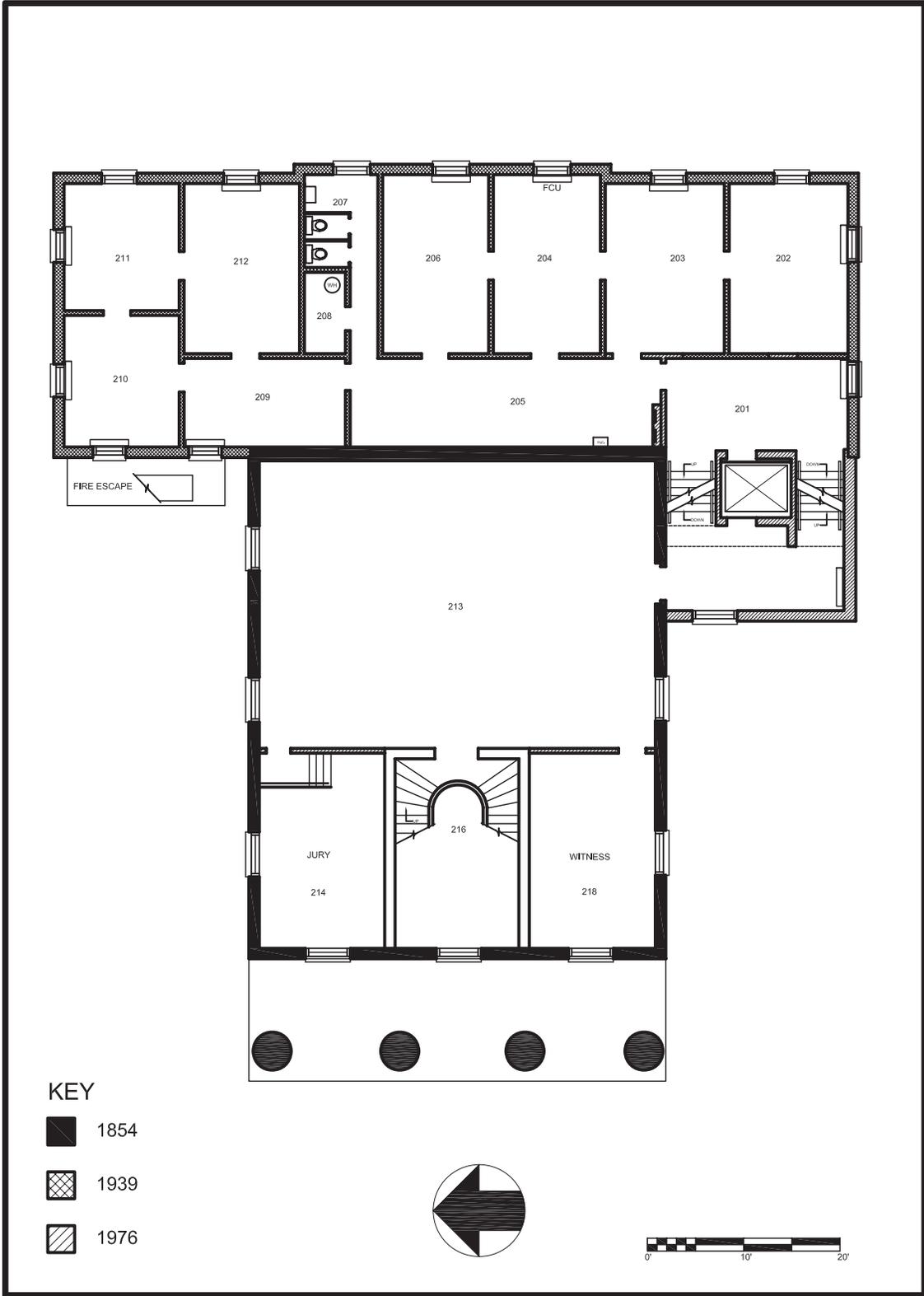
-  1854
-  1939
-  1976



<b>A1.0</b> <small>DRAWING NO.          SEPTEMBER 8, 2010          DATE          JINWG          DRAWN BY          COMMISSION NO.</small>	<b>BRUNSWICK COUNTY COURTHOUSE</b>	<b>MESICK*COHEN*WILSON*BAKER*ARCHITECTS</b>
	<b>BASEMENT PLAN</b>	<small>388 BROADWAY ALBANY, NY 12207          p. (518)433-9394 f. (518)433-9397          3302 CRAGGY OAK COURT WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23188          p. (757)221-0713 f. (757)221-0714</small>



<b>A1.1</b> <small>DRAWING NO.          SEPTEMBER 8, 2009          JAMES          DRAWN BY</small>	<b>BRUNSWICK COUNTY COURTHOUSE</b>	<b>MESICK*COHEN*WILSON*BAKER*ARCHITECTS</b>
	<b>FIRST FLOOR PLAN</b>	<small>388 BROADWAY ALBANY, NY 12207          p. (518)433-9394 f. (518)433-9397          3302 CRAGGY OAK COURT WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23188          p. (757)221-0713 f. (757)221-0714</small>

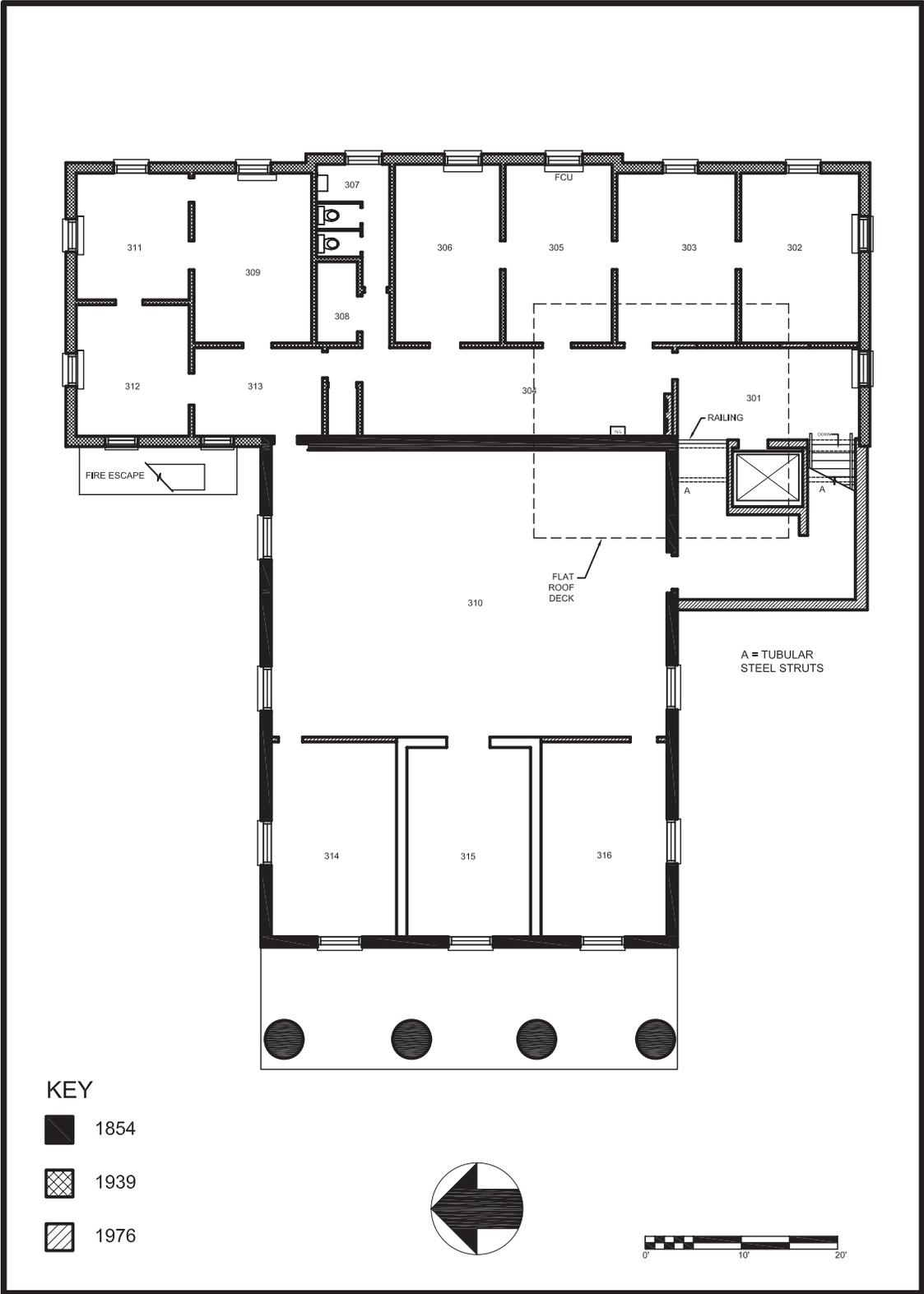


**KEY**

-  1854
-  1939
-  1976



<p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;"><b>A1.2</b></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">DRAWING NO. SEPTEMBER 8, 2010</p>	<p><b>BRUNSWICK COUNTY COURTHOUSE</b></p>	<p><b>MESICK*COHEN*WILSON*BAKER*ARCHITECTS</b></p>
	<p><b>SECOND FLOOR PLAN</b></p>	<p>388 BROADWAY ALBANY, NY 12207 p. (518)433-9394 f. (518)433-9397</p> <p>3302 CRAGGY OAK COURT WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23188 p. (757)221-0713 f. (757)221-0714</p>

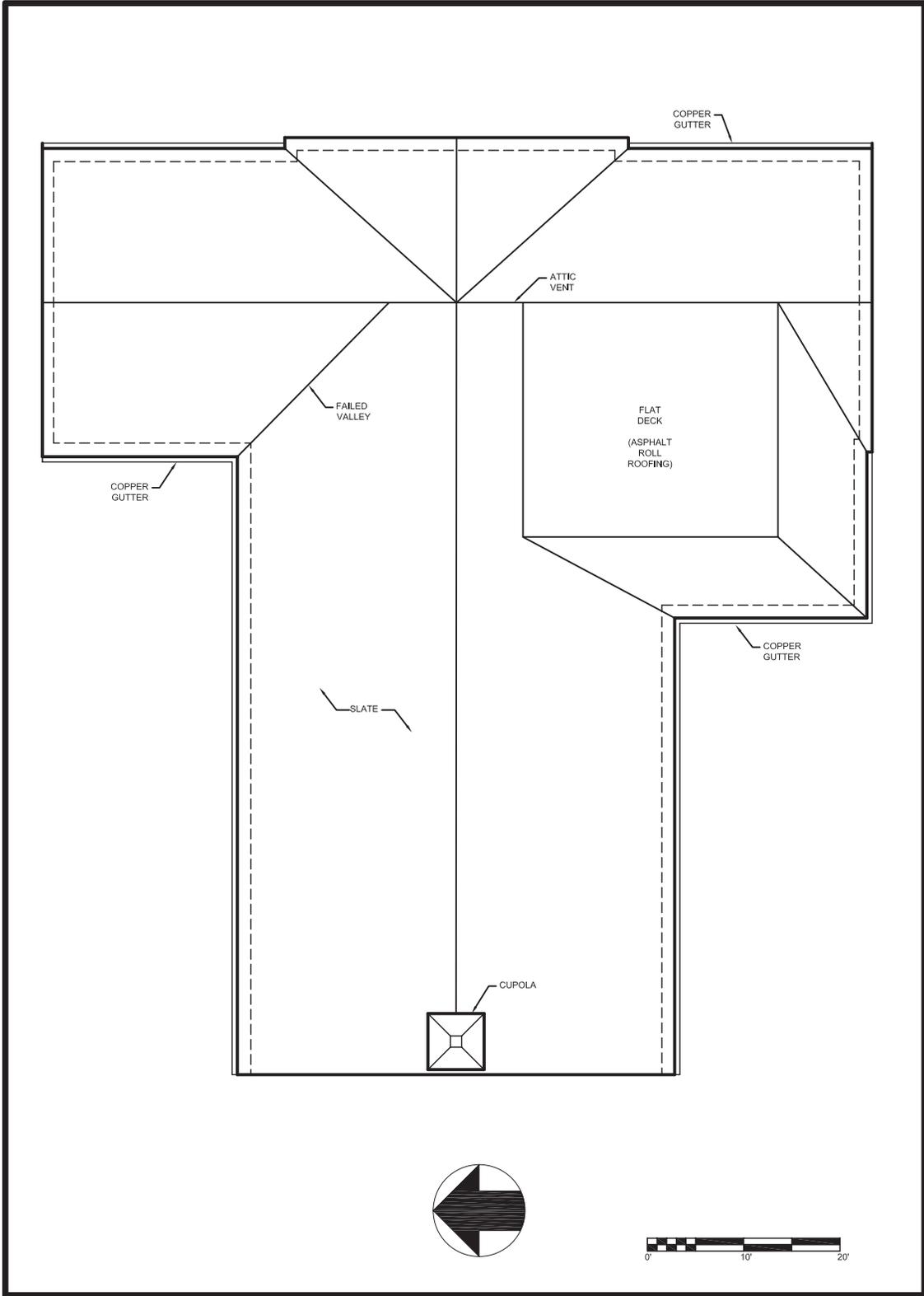


**KEY**

-  1854
-  1939
-  1976



<b>A1.3</b>	DRAWING NO. SEPTEMBER 8, 2008 DATE	COMMISSION NO. DRAWN BY JING DATE	<b>BRUNSWICK COUNTY COURTHOUSE</b>	<b>MESICK*COHEN*WILSON*BAKER*ARCHITECTS</b>
	<b>THIRD FLOOR PLAN</b>			388 BROADWAY ALBANY, NY 12207 p. (518)433-9394 f. (518)433-9397 3302 CRAGGY OAK COURT WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23188 p. (757)221-0713 f. (757)221-0714



<b>RP.1</b> DRAWING NO. SEPTEMBER 8, 2010	<b>BRUNSWICK COUNTY COURTHOUSE</b>	<b>MESICK*COHEN*WILSON*BAKER*ARCHITECTS</b>
	<b>ROOF PLAN</b>	388 BROADWAY ALBANY, NY 12207 p. (518)433-9394 f. (518)433-9397 3302 CRAGGY OAK COURT WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23188 p. (757)221-0713 f. (757)221-0714

*Appendix B:*

Updated (2009) National Register Nomination Form  
for Brunswick County Courthouse Square (251-0001)

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**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 any 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 Brunswick County Courthouse Square Nomination Update  
other names/site number VA Department of Historic Resources:# 251-0001

**2. Location**

street & number 202, 216, 228, 234 North Main Street not for publication N/A  
city or town Lawrenceville vicinity N/A  
state Virginia code VA county Brunswick code 025 zip code 23868

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant      nationally      statewide X locally. (     See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

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 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
X public-local
public-State
public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
X district
site
structure
object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows: buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total.

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 4

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

- Cat: GOVERNMENT, EDUCATION, RECREATION AND CULTURE, LANDSCAPE
Sub: county courthouse, correctional facility, jail, library, monument/marker, plaza, public common

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

- Cat: GOVERNMENT, SOCIAL, RECREATION AND CULTURE, LANDSCAPE
Sub: courthouse, municipal building, meeting hall, museum, monument/marker, plaza, public common

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

- Cat: MID-19TH CENTURY, LATE VICTORIAN, LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS
Sub: Greek Revival, Romanesque, Colonial Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation BRICK
roof STONE: Slate, ASPHALT
walls BRICK
other WOOD, BRICK, STONE

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

See continuation sheet.

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)

- X 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.
X 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.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or a 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.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
POLITICAL/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance 1854 to 1959

Significant Dates 1854, 1893, 1911, 1941

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder Edward R. Turnbull; Robert Kirkland; Marion J. Dimmock; William Moseley; Browne, Eichman, Dalgliesh, Gilpin and Paxton P.C.

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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.
X previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
X recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory (HABS)
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: VDHR, William & Mary Center for Archaeological Research

=====  
**10. Geographical Data**  
=====

**Acreage of Property** 1.55 acres

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

Zone	Easting	Northing
<u>18</u>	<u>245853</u>	<u>4071640</u>

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 David W. Lewes, Project Manager; Meg Greene Malvasi, Architectural Historian  
organization William & Mary Center for Archaeological Research date August 17, 2009  
street & number P.O. Box 8795 telephone 757-221-2580  
city or town Williamsburg state VA zip code 23187-8795

=====  
**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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Brunswick County (c/o County Administrator, Charlette Woolridge)  
street & number County Administration, 102 Tobacco Street telephone 434-848-3107  
city or town Lawrenceville state VA zip code 23868

=====  
**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.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the 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 1.National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Brunswick County Courthouse Square Historic District  
Brunswick County, Virginia**

Section   7   Page   1  

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## **7. Description**

### **Summary Description**

Located in the town of Lawrenceville, Virginia, the Brunswick County Courthouse Square comprises approximately 1.55 acres of courthouse grounds with an 1854 brick courthouse and an associated complex of nineteenth- through twentieth-century public buildings and monuments. All four buildings on the rectangular courthouse grounds face west toward North Main Street across a swath of lawns and brick walkways. Arranged with fairly even spacing from the southern end are four brick buildings: the present courthouse (built in 1998), the clerk's office (1893), the former courthouse (1854; now partially used for county offices), and the former county library (1941; now a museum). The square is dominated by the 1854 Greek Revival temple form courthouse with two-story pedimented portico supported by four massive Doric columns and topped by a cupola; rear twentieth-century additions replicate the style and detail of the original portion. The neighboring two-story clerk's office, also with rear additions, exhibits Romanesque Revival-style traits, while the library/museum consists of a smaller-scaled, one-and-a-half-story Colonial Revival building set back from North Main Street. The new two-and-a-half-story courthouse is the largest building on the square, but does not overpower the historic buildings thanks to its setback and Colonial Revival style. An imposing memorial to Confederate veterans (built in 1911) stands within a wrought iron fence at the north end of the square, and a simpler granite slab monument commemorating the county's veterans of World War I to the Vietnam War is located in front of three flag poles between the old courthouse and the clerk's office. Other features include a nineteenth-century horse trough in a sitting area behind the new courthouse and a brick water fountain between the 1854 courthouse and the clerk's office. Chosen in 1783 for its central location within newly established boundaries of Brunswick County (originally created in 1732), Brunswick Court House was recognized by the General Assembly as the town of Lawrenceville in 1814. No longer extant buildings include the 1783 frame courthouse, a pre-1832 clerk's office, a privy, a store, a law office, and one or more jails. Previously listed on the National Register in 1974 (Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks [VDHL] No. 251-0001), the Brunswick County Courthouse Square also is encompassed by and contributes to the Lawrenceville Historic District (VDHL No. 251-5001; listed 2000).

### **Detailed Architectural Description/Inventory**

**1854 Courthouse (251-0001-0001 / 251-5001-0108)  
228 North Main Street**

**1 contributing building  
1 non-contributing object  
1 non-contributing structure**

The former courthouse building (built in 1854) sits above street grade facing North Main Street and is located between the library/museum to the north and the county clerk's office to the south. Mature shade trees, shrubs, seasonal plantings, and a well-tended lawn further enhance the building's location. The building is bounded to the rear (east) by Court Street.

This two-story, three-bay Greek Revival-styled building is constructed of brick laid in 5/1 American bond. The roof is covered with slate shingles and has a plain frieze. Dominating the west front façade is a temple-front pedimented

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Brunswick County Courthouse Square Historic District  
Brunswick County, Virginia

Section 7 Page 2

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portico with architrave, supported by four colossal stuccoed and fluted Doric columns. Resting atop the pediment is a small, square cupola with rectangular louvered openings topped by a hipped roof with a simple cornice with brackets and a weathervane. Marking the central entrance is a double-leaf wood door with a large multi-light rectangular transom; flanking the door are multi-light sidelights. Window openings consist of 6/6 wood sash with marble lintels and granite sills. A two-story, brick addition, built on the rear of the temple form courthouse in 1939, transformed the footprint into a T-shape. Addition of an elevator and office space expanded the rear addition in 1977.

South of the courthouse, an open sided courtyard is formed by the walls of the courthouse, its rear addition, and the clerk's office and addition. This area includes a small stone memorial (*ca. 1960, non-contributing object*) dedicated to veterans of World Wars I and II and the Korean and Vietnam wars. The face of the taller central slab is carved with scrolls, fluting, and an eagle with wings spread near the top. Flanking smaller, symmetrical slabs respectively commemorate World Wars I and II and the Korean War (left) and the Vietnam War (right). The left slab lists the three wars and includes a biblical verse (John 15:13). The right slab is inscribed "WE HOLD IN GRATEFUL MEMORY THE MEN OF BRUNSWICK COUNTY WHO DIED TO PRESERVE OUR WAY OF LIFE." Below this inscription, "VIETNAM" may have been inscribed several years after the monument was first erected. Directly behind the memorial are three flagpoles; seasonal plantings and bushes are arranged around the memorial. A ginko tree planted in 1977 to commemorate World War II veterans enhances this area's peaceful, reflective setting (Everett 1977).

Also located in this area between the courthouse and clerk's office is a metal drinking water fountain set within a brick pier laid in stretcher bond (*ca. 1960, non-contributing object*). The metal bowl of the fountain sits at the base of a hollow formed by molded bricks in the top course of the pier. A small metal plate and lever are set within a small opening in the south face of the pier. Surrounding the base of the pier, a decorative circular pattern of bricks is laid in the brick walkway.

***Clerk's Office (251-0001-0002 / 251-5001-0107)***  
***216 North Main Street***

***1 contributing building***

Located between the 1854 courthouse (north) and the current 1998 courthouse (south) is the Clerk's Office (built in 1893). The building sits above street grade facing Main Street. The building stands amid well-tended lawns crossed by brick walkways. Large linden trees provide shade, while crepe myrtles and foundation plantings of boxwoods surround the building.

This two-story, three-bay brick building exhibits style traits of the Richardsonian Romanesque Revival. It is laid in 6/1 American bond brick and rests on a brick foundation. The hipped roof is covered with slate and has a small molded wood cornice; two interior brick chimneys with corbelled caps pierce the roof ends. The west front slope is offset by a false front gable with a circular louvered vent in the gable end. The building's plain exterior is offset by a brick belt course that articulates the first and second stories; its design consists of three projecting stretcher courses and a diagonal course of soldier brick topped by projecting and flush stretcher courses. The central entrance consists of double-leaf raised four-panel doors topped by a single-light transom and rusticated stone lintel. Other distinctive elements of the building include paired 2/2 wood sash windows with stone lintels on the first floor and paired 2/2

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Brunswick County Courthouse Square Historic District  
Brunswick County, Virginia**

Section 7 Page 3

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windows topped with semi-circular brick arches on the second story. All window openings have granite sills and are topped with a single-light transom. Attached to the rear (east) of the building is a one-story brick addition with a side-gable roof of slate shingles. Located on the north wall is an engaged porch supported by square posts; the off-center entrance is marked by double-leaf wood paneled doors with a large two-light transom. Openings consist of 2/2 wood sash windows with simple wood surrounds. Attached to this addition is a two-story brick addition with a hipped roof with simple wood cornice.

***Library/Museum (251-0001-0004 / 251-5001-0109)***  
***234 North Main Street***

***1 contributing building***

Located at the south end of the courthouse square is the Library/Museum, built in 1941. The building which sits above street grade is sited at the northeast corner of Bank and Court streets. A brick retaining wall runs along the Court Street side. The building sits on a well-tended lot with mature oaks. Small bushes are clustered around the exterior of the library. A concrete sidewalk runs from the north to the south in front of the facade. To the west of the building is the confederate monument; to the east are Court Street and a small commercial and government building block; to the north is the Courthouse; to the south across Bank Street is a modern brick building, which houses a local branch of the Bank of America.

This one-and-a-half-story, three-bay Colonial Revival-styled building, built in 1941, is constructed of brick laid in a Flemish bond pattern, punctuated by an occasional clinker header brick, and rests on a raised brick foundation with a distinctive sloped brick watertable. The jerkinhead roof features slate shingles and a molded and denticulated wood cornice with shaped end boards. Three frame hipped roof dormers constructed of diagonal weatherboard with 6/6 wood sash windows pierce the west front slope of the roof; two identical dormers are located on the rear roof slope. Located on the north and south elevations are double-shouldered brick chimneys with corbelled caps. Flanking each chimney are small four-light wood hinged windows with molded wood surrounds. Marking the central entrance on the south façade is a one-story, one-bay hipped roof porch supported by chamfered wood posts; the raised six-panel single-leaf door with architrave is topped by a four-light transom. Window openings consist of 9/9 wood sash with molded wood surrounds. Attached to the rear east of the building is a one-story, brick side-gable roof addition. An engaged brick square chimney is attached to the rear of the addition; located to one side of the chimney is a single 6/6 wood sash window. Attached to the north wall of this addition is a one-story, one-bay, front-gable roof porch supported by square wood columns attached to a simple wood balustrade. The entrance consists of a raised six-panel single-leaf door with a four-light transom. Openings consist of 6/6 wood sash windows.

***Confederate Monument (251-0001-0003)***  
***234 North Main Street***

***1 contributing object***

West of the library within a stone-paved enclosure surrounded by a wrought iron fence, an imposing buff granite memorial to soldiers of the Confederacy stands 26 ft. 8 in. tall. Erected in 1911, the monument consists of a rectangular pylon resting on a triple-tier base. Two quarry-faced granite courses of diminishing width support two further diminishing dressed courses; the lower of the dressed courses bears the word "VIRGINIA" in relief. The following inscription is in relief on the die: "IN MEMORY OF CONFEDERATE HEROES OF BRUNSWICK COUNTY, 1861 – 1865 – LOVE MAKES MEMORY ETERNAL. Carved in relief on the pylon is a flag and the word "C.S.A."

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Brunswick County Courthouse Square Historic District  
Brunswick County, Virginia

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above. Atop the monument stands a statue of a Confederate soldier in field dress with a field hat. He holds the barrel of his rifle with both hands, left above right.

***New Courthouse (251-0001-0005 / 251-5001-0106)***  
***202 North Main Street***

***1 non-contributing building***  
***1 contributing object***

Located at the south end of the courthouse square facing Main Street is the current Brunswick County Courthouse, built in 1998. The large building sits above street grade and near the southwest corner of the square at East Hicks and Court streets. Following construction of the building, the surrounding grounds were landscaped with brick retaining walls and walkways, small trees, shrubs, and seasonal plantings. To the east are Court Street and a small commercial and government building block; to the south and east is a commercial district. The clerk's office is located on the courthouse square to the north.

This two-and-a-half-story, rectangular block courthouse is constructed of brick laid in 5/1 American bond; a molded brick watertable encircles the building. The hipped roof is covered with composition shingles and has a molded cornice and simple wood frieze; two interior brick chimneys pierce the front west slope of the roof. Located on the west and east slopes are two inset front-gable dormers with a single 6/6 sash window. Dominating the façade is a two-story, pedimented portico with full entablature and a small louvered lunette opening located in the central gable end. The portico is supported by Tuscan columns resting on large brick bases. The portico shields three single-leaf, multi-light doors, each with a single transom. On the north and south slope sides are six inset front-gable dormers, each with a single 6/6 sash window. The dormers are in groups of three, clustered on either side of a slightly projecting front-gable block. Openings consist of 9/9 and 6/6 modern metal sash windows with stone lintels. Openings on the second story are blind with stone lintels.

A metal horse trough (***contributing object***) associated with the use of the 1854 Courthouse in the late nineteenth century serves as the centerpiece of a small paved outdoor sitting area behind the New Courthouse near the corner of Court and East Hicks streets. The trough contains a planting of annuals.

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## **8. Statement of Significance**

### ***Summary Statement***

The 1.55-acre Brunswick County Courthouse Square is an excellent example of the courthouse complexes established across Virginia in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Typical of courthouse villages, the site of Brunswick Court House was chosen for its central geographical location in the county rather than for any particular advantages of commerce or transportation. After establishment in 1720, Brunswick's vast territory had its boundaries adjusted repeatedly as new counties were created from its lands with the growth of settlement. Likewise, the location of the courthouse moved twice before the final boundaries of the county were largely achieved in 1783 (a small adjustment was made in 1787) and a frame courthouse was built on the present square by 1784. The centerpiece of the historic district, a Greek Revival temple form brick building with portico, was erected in 1854 to replace the earlier court building. By this time a small community had grown around the courthouse area to serve the large influx of residents attending twice-monthly court days. With establishment of a railroad link in 1890, the surrounding town of Lawrenceville (created in 1814 and incorporated in 1874) grew into a regional commercial center with substantial masonry buildings replacing the simple frame stores and offices that had previously surrounded the square. Consistent with this growth and prosperity, the county hired a renowned Richmond architect to build a two-story clerk's office in 1893. A new jail also was built during this period. During the twentieth century, the courthouse square, which had provided an informal social space on court days, took on a more stately appearance with a fence built to enclose and protect the grounds. The square also became the site of commemoration and symbolism, with a Confederate memorial erected in 1911 and a monument to local veterans of the United States' twentieth-century wars through Vietnam installed in the 1960s. Expansion of federal involvement in the county through the programs of the New Deal led to expansion of the Courthouse in 1939 with a rear office wing. Growing needs of local government also were met with additions to the clerk's office in 1924 and 1939. The square's role as a civic and cultural space was underscored by construction of a library at the north end in 1941. As the needs of the county continued to expand, further additions and renovations were made to the 1854 Courthouse in 1977, after a National Register listing in 1974 recognized the square's significance to the county's history. Finally, by 1998, the county's court system had outgrown the historic building. With a limited number of building sites available downtown, the decision was made to build a large modern courthouse facility at the south end of the square on the site of the former jail. Sensitive to retaining the historic character of the square, the County supervisors sought the advice of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources in the design process, resulting in an appropriately situated building and a suitable choice of revival architectural elements borrowed from other buildings on the square.

### ***Criteria Statement***

The Brunswick County Courthouse Square is eligible under National Register Criterion A for its association with government. The pairing of the 1854 courthouse and the 1893 clerk's office provides a glimpse into the early growth of the courthouse square as a focus of governmental and public life, while later additions such as the 1911 Confederate Memorial and 1941 Library demonstrate the continuing evolution of a functioning courthouse square into

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the modern era. While non-contributing, the 1998 courthouse building does not detract from the architectural integrity of earlier buildings thanks to its positioning, use of architectural elements reminiscent of the historic buildings on the square, and unity of landscaping.

The district is eligible under Criterion C because it is a well-integrated complex of buildings, monuments, and grounds that spans a large portion of the county's history (present boundaries and court complex established in 1783; county created in 1732), reflecting a progression of architectural styles popular at the time of construction and paralleling the characteristic evolution of Virginia courthouse squares. The resources retain integrity and the courthouse square remains a relevant focus of the county's social and civic activities to this day.

The period of significance begins with the oldest extant resource, the 1854 Courthouse, and ends in 1959, recognizing the continued importance of Courthouse Square to the politics and government of Brunswick County. The period of significance could be revised to begin earlier if the archaeological remains of the earlier courthouse or associated buildings are ever discovered.

***Detailed Statement***

***Creation and Evolution of Brunswick County.*** Unlike most of the Virginia counties established in the eighteenth century, Brunswick was not formed organically in response to growing settlement. Instead, the colonial government created the county as an incentive to draw settlers westward and populate the frontier. After establishing a settlement at New Orleans in 1718, the French built a series of forts between the mouth of the Mississippi and Quebec. Two years later, Governor Alexander Spotswood encouraged English settlement beyond the fall line as a buffer against potential attacks from the French and their Indian allies. The House of Burgesses responded by establishing Spotsylvania and Brunswick counties on December 23, 1720 (Gaines 1970:37-38). The vast new county of Brunswick (named for a German province, Braunschweig, inherited by King George I) generally extended westward from the fall lines of major rivers near present Emporia toward the Blue Ridge and beyond. To the north, the county was bounded by the Nottoway River; the southern boundary was established in 1728 with William Byrd's survey of the dividing line between Virginia and North Carolina. The eastern portion of the new county acquired portions from old Surry, Isle of Wight, and Prince George counties. Also included within Brunswick were present Lunenburg and Greensville counties (Neale et al. 1999:41).

Provision for the new county by the Treasurer of the Colony included funds to supply a citizen militia with firearms and ammunition. An additional allocation of £500 was for building a church, courthouse, prison, pillory, and stocks. By 1730 a courthouse and jail had been built between present-day Cochran and Alberta (about 15 miles northwest of Lawrenceville), but settlers of the new county of Brunswick continued to attend court in neighboring Prince George County as they had for the last decade. Without any justices to sit at their own court, Brunswick's residents could only settle small administrative matters in their own county (Neale et al. 1999:41-42; Orgain 1990).

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The county court continued to be moved following reconfigurations of county boundaries. "In 1746, after deciding that they would pattern their new buildings after those in Prince George County, Brunswick magistrates ordered that the courthouse and prison be constructed of wood rather than brick in order to reduce cost, perhaps anticipating that the seat would be moved again within a few years" (Lounsbury 2005:182; OB 1744-48:22-23, 6/27/1745). This frame courthouse was built by Sterling Clack on land that he donated to the county near present Edgerton (Turnbull 1977:3).

***Brunswick County Courthouse Square.*** With the formation of Greensville County from the eastern portion of Brunswick County in 1781, it became necessary to find a site for a new courthouse. Located near the boundary of the two counties, the existing courthouse on Sterling Clack's property was too far east of the county's center. As was typical of Virginia's courthouses, the site on Jones Williams' land in present Lawrenceville was chosen as a "more central" location in 1783 (Turnbull 1977:3). As architectural historian Carl Lounsbury (2005:54) has noted, "This method of selection often meant constructing civic structures in the middle of nowhere, at a place that was equidistant from all corners of the county."

Landowners such as Williams were quite willing to donate land, and in this case invest in the infrastructure of the court, because they recognized that court business would attract commerce to their lonely plantations. In 1783 Williams agreed that he would "immediately build a prison and stock and pillory, to be done by the next term of Court, and to fix his house for the Court to sit in, until he could complete the courthouse, which was to be done within two years" (Turnbull 1977:3). In fact, already by 1784, Williams had erected a 44-by-24-foot wooden building with 14-foot pitch and brick chimney (Lounsbury 2005:340). The courthouse must have been well built, as half a century later an atlas entry described it as "handsome" (Martin 1835:133).

An 1832 plat depicts the location of the eighteenth-century courthouse along with other no longer extant buildings on the square. Near the center of the north end of the square, the courthouse may have stood between the present footprints of the Library and Confederate Monument. Directly to the west, adjacent to Main Street, was the only commercial building on the square---a store owned by Lewis McIndoe. Across open ground with scattered trees, a small clerk's office stood just north of the later Greek Revival court building. It is interesting to note that archaeological remains of these two buildings could remain in these areas of apparently minor ground disturbance. Another small private building, the office of "Lawyer Meade" was allowed on the public land of the green, along Court Street where the addition to the 1854 Courthouse now stands. Finally, an early jail stood in the far southeast corner of the square, a location that was used for a late nineteenth-century jail with a twentieth-century addition until it was demolished to make room for the new courthouse in 1998 (Neale 1999:endpapers).

In 1814 the town of Lawrenceville was created through an Act of the General Assembly. Peggy Williams was ordered to lay out town lots on 20 acres of land she owned around the courthouse green. Origins of the town's name are variously attributed to a famous racehorse named Lawrence or to Capt. James Lawrence, a naval hero of the War of 1812 (Bell and Heartwell 1957:43; Neale et al. 1999:124).

Business from court days had made the area around the courthouse an attractive place for merchants. However, Lawrenceville remained a modest-sized community through most of the nineteenth century, dependent on commerce

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from county residents attending court days and serving as a local market for the surrounding agricultural areas. In his 1835 *Gazetteer*, Joseph Martin described Lawrenceville as a “beautiful and wealthy little upland village.” In addition to the court buildings described above, the community had “an elegant masonic hall, and an Episcopal church, 25 neat dwelling houses, 1 common school, 1 temperance and 1 missionary society, 4 mercantile stores, 2 taverns, 2 tanyards, 1 saddler, 1 boot and shoe factory, 2 tailors, and 3 smith-shops.” As could be expected in a court town, the population of 350 included four attorneys; there was also one physician (Martin 1835:133).

Although Lawrenceville had grown by the time of the Civil War, it still gave visitors the impression of a picturesque little village. By now it boasted an impressive brick courthouse in the Greek Revival style, built 10 years earlier to replace the 1784 building (see below). A reporter for the *New York Herald* (5/25/1864) noted that Lawrenceville was considered to be “the prettiest place in Virginia.” Nevertheless, despite its out-of-the-way appearance, it attracted the attention of Union columns passing through Southside Virginia. The *Herald* reported “an immense amount of rebel property destroyed here.” An official report by an officer of the 11th Pennsylvania Cavalry noted that about 125 sacks of salt had been found in an outbuilding of the courthouse and destroyed (*OR Ser. 1, Vol. 36, Pt. 2:186*). Despite these depredations, the court records escaped from the war intact. According to local tradition, one of Sheridan’s officers, who was a Freemason, restrained his men from vandalizing the courthouse when he recognized a Masonic apron that clerk E. R. Turnbull had spread across the court books (Peters and Peters 1995:100).

By 1874, the town of Lawrenceville had grown enough to be officially incorporated. Nevertheless, a resident of that period, when interviewed in the twentieth century, remembered Lawrenceville as a “very small village consisting of a courthouse, a few small stores, two blacksmith shops, a shoe maker’s shop and several dwellings” (Neblett 1999).

During the next decade the town remained small, but would soon benefit from additional educational opportunities for African Americans. In 1888, James Solomon Russell, an Episcopal priest who had once been a slave, established a parish school for local African-American children. Five years later, the school was incorporated as the Saint Paul’s Normal and Industrial School, the precursor of Saint Paul’s College (Neblett 1999).

The character of Lawrenceville changed decisively from a sleepy courthouse village to an important commercial and transportation hub in 1890, when the Danville & Atlantic Railroad’s line extended through the town and the company opened its engine shops, providing industrial jobs. The streetscapes surrounding the courthouse square took on much of their present character as blocks of masonry commercial buildings replaced smaller wood frame stores and offices. The prosperity of the period is reflected in the 1893 clerk’s office and a new jail built in the 1890s.

By 1907, the population stood at 2,000 (Neblett 1999). During the twentieth century, the town continued to serve as a local market and processing center for the surrounding countryside’s agricultural products, including tobacco, cotton, and dairy farming. Development of the town in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century led the Sanborn Fire Insurance Company to create detailed maps of the town to help inventory the properties it insured. Four maps dating to 1912, 1920, 1926, and 1926-1938 document developments on the court square during this period. Thanks to the company’s detailed map legends and notation, it is known that the courthouse, clerk’s office, and jail all had slate or metal roofs during the early twentieth century. Sometime between 1920 and 1926, a small privy was built directly

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behind the clerk's office next to Court Street. It is also evident that a portion of the jail yard, which had extended into the present path of Court Street, was removed by 1926 to broaden the road at its intersection with East Hicks Street.

**Courthouse (1854).** On April 25, 1853, the county justices resolved to "consider the propriety of building a new courthouse and clerk's office." A commission composed of John E. Shell, E. R. Turnbull, Robert Kirkland, J. A. Riddick, and R. D. Turnbull was charged with the responsibility of providing suitable plans by the next court session. After the report (not recorded) was made a month later, the justices decided to move forward and advertise the project. In 1854, two of the commissioners, county clerk Edward R. Turnbull and Robert Kirkland, were awarded the \$7,000 contract (Brunswick County Order Book 38:57, 60).

The justices must have had high aspirations for the new building, for they also authorized the commissioners to visit the Mecklenburg Courthouse in Boydton (Order Book 38:60). Completed a decade earlier, this building was modeled closely on Thomas Jefferson's Capitol Building (1827) in Richmond, the archetype of the temple form in Virginia's public buildings (Peters and Peters 1995:79). Ultimately, inspiration for the Capitol came from the Maison Carrée, a Roman temple in the south of France which Jefferson deemed "the most perfect model existing of what may be called Cubic architecture" (Lounsbury 2005:127). While the Brunswick builders did not achieve as refined an effect as found in the Mecklenburg Courthouse, with its hexastyle portico of Ionic columns, they followed the temple form and realized a Doric interpretation of the building and its archetype. Built in 1854, the Brunswick Courthouse was the last of Virginia's courthouses in the "Temple Revival" style (Peters and Peters 1995:98).

On December 25, 1854, the justices ordered that as soon as the courthouse was "received" the clerk should move the records into the two southern rooms on the first floor of the new building (Order Book 38:117). The records would have been safer from fire in the new masonry building than in the little frame office that stood near the north side of the courthouse until the early twentieth century (Bobby Conner, personal communication 2009).

Scattered records, photographs, and articles document repairs and modifications to the building in the ensuing century and a half. In 1902, the courthouse underwent repairs and its walls received a wash of the ocher-colored paint that survives to this day (Smithey 1907).

A photograph taken in 1906 suggests that the fluting on the four massive columns of the portico may have been original to the building's design, while photographs taken after major work on the building in the late 1930s show columns with the fluting removed. The present flutes were reapplied in 1978 after the County Board of Supervisors approved \$82,400 for Fauber Garbee, Inc., Architects to complete the task (Board of Supervisors' Minutes September 20, 1978).

The most dramatic change to the courthouse occurred in 1939, with the addition of a two-story rear office block to accommodate various county government offices as well as federal offices for administering New Deal programs. Perhaps due to the perception of federal government interference in local affairs, the 1939 addition was not met with unanimous approval as "15 prominent citizens sought to stop construction" (*South Hill Enterprise* 1977). Although the

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addition altered the building's temple block form, architectural materials and details were replicated from the original portion to pleasing effect. At this time, it is likely that the damaged fluting on the columns was removed to achieve the smooth surface seen in mid-twentieth-century photographs. The \$38,437 project costs were divided equally between the Public Works Administration and Brunswick County (*South Hill Enterprise* 1977).

In 1974, the courthouse and the surrounding square were listed on the National Register of Historic Places. With this recognition, the county supervisors were careful to consult with architectural historians at the Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks (later the Virginia Department of Historic Resources) when planning a further addition to accommodate an elevator in 1975 (Hill 1975). The architectural firm of Moseley-Hening completed an addition to the courthouse, an addition to the clerk's office, and extensive renovations and reconfiguration, especially of the interior, in 1977. Most notably, arrangement of the bench and seating in the courtroom was shifted from an eastward to a northward orientation. Slate roofs were reinstalled on the courthouse as well as the clerk's office during the 1977 renovations (Everett 1977); new roofing was necessary as some of the old rooflines had changed. With construction of the new courthouse at the south end of the square in 1998, the 1854 courthouse's function shifted from judicial to governmental, housing offices for several departments of county government.

**Clerk's Office (1893).** On August 5, 1892, R. H. Sims advertised that the county would receive bids for a two-story fire-proof brick office building (*Manufacturer's Record* 1892:19). In 1893 this new clerk's office was completed by Marion J. Dimmock, one of Virginia's prominent architects of the period. A native of Portsmouth, Dimmock moved to Richmond with his family in 1833. During the Civil War, he served as a captain in the 10th Virginia Cavalry under General J.E.B. Stuart. Dimmock was most active as an architect from the 1880s to 1903. Referring to Dimmock's design of churches and upscale residences in Virginia's capital, a 1901 article described him as the "dean of [Richmond] architects." In addition to 10 houses and 10 churches credited to him, Dimmock also designed a variety of public buildings, mostly in Richmond but also across the state. His 1893 design of the Brunswick County Clerk's Office occurred in a period beginning in the 1890s when he designed hotels, offices, apartment buildings, an opera house, and a hospital. Dimmock worked alone during this span, but from 1871 to 1873 he partnered with his brother Charles and then from 1906 until his death in 1908 with the firm of Duncan Lee (Wells and Dalton 1997:119-121). Promoted to Fellow of the AIA in 1888, Dimmock's importance derives both from his prolific output (frequently published in *American Architect and Building News*) as well as his influence on Lee and C. K. Bryant, whose output continued into the mid-twentieth century (Culhane 1997:Ch.II).

Dimmock's use of Romanesque elements in the Brunswick County Clerk's Office is consistent with other buildings he designed in the 1880s and 1890s. The Jones-Williams House and the Ellet House on West Franklin Street in Richmond exhibit Dimmock's embrace of the Richardsonian Romanesque style (Culhane 1992:Ch. II). For the clerk's office, he employed elements of the style such as semicircular arches, decorative masonry, and rough cut window sills, while at the same time making use of materials and a building form that echoed the appearance of the courthouse.

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Two additions have been built on the rear of the clerk's office. In 1924, a small office expanded the building. A 1939 addition provided space for a large records room fitted with metal record cases. The additions retain the architectural traits of the original 1893 building (Mitchell 1974).

***Confederate Memorial (1911).*** Beginning in the 1870s, Confederate memorials and other war monuments, “the focus of communal commemoration,” were erected on almost every courthouse green in Virginia. The dedication of the Confederate monument in Brunswick County took place just after the peak of commemorative fervor that occurred during the first decade of the twentieth century (Lounsbury 2005:331). At a reunion of local Confederate veterans in 1905, the decision was made to erect a memorial to them and their fallen brethren on the courthouse green. The United Daughters of the Confederacy raised \$2,100 to build an imposing monument built of Dinwiddie County granite; it was dedicated on November 9, 1911 (Neale 1999:260-261).

***Library/Museum (1941).*** A major component in the court green's transformation into a “civic square” was construction of a library at the north end near or partially within the footprint location of the county's first courthouse building. Through funds donated by Ambassador David K. E. Bruce, the Colonial Revival library was built in 1941. Beginning in 1937, Bruce had funded construction of 11 other libraries in his native Charlotte County and surrounding counties (Lankford 1996:102). After the County library merged into a regional system in the 1980s, its operations were moved to a location on Hicks Street (Bobby Conner, personal communication 2009). Currently, the Old Library building serves as the headquarters of the Brunswick County Museum and Historical Society, Incorporated.

***War Memorial (ca. 1960).*** The tradition of using the square for commemorative purposes continues into the recent past. Although a non-contributing element due to its age, the memorial to local veterans of twentieth-century wars (World Wars I and II, Korean War, and Vietnam War) fits well with the peaceful setting of the courtyard formed between the courthouse and clerk's office.

***New Courthouse (1998).*** Despite major renovations and additions in 1977, the county's court system had outgrown the 1854 building by the mid-1990s. In 1998 the firm of Browne, Eichman, Dalglish, Gilpin and Paxton P.C. was hired to build a new courthouse at the south end of the court square. Mindful of the importance of retaining the 1974 National Register listing, the county supervisors solicited advice from Virginia Department of Historic Resources regarding the siting and design of the new building. It had been considered preferable to build on a site across Court Street so as to not upset the historical integrity of the courthouse square. However, as the land was not available for purchase, every effort was made to avoid overwhelming the historic clerk's office and courthouse with an oversized and too modern building. Although the nineteenth-century jail on the corner of East Hicks and Court streets had to be demolished, the County adopted a recommendation from the Brunswick County Historical Society to save a historic watering trough that was built into a wall along Court Street (*Brunswick Times Gazette* 1993). Currently, the trough is sited behind the new courthouse in a paved sitting area. The Albertis S. Harrison, Jr. Courthouse was dedicated on April 18, 1999.

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**Architectural Significance.** The **Brunswick County Courthouse Square** is a representative example of a Virginia courthouse square, exhibiting development of building styles and landscape that were typical for these spaces from the eighteenth through twentieth centuries. Like many other counties established in the eighteenth century, Brunswick had land donated by a property owner at the geographic center of the county. Property owners willingly gave land with the prospect of benefitting from periodic commerce of court day crowds (Lounsbury 2005:54). In this early stage of a county's judicial history, a frame rather than masonry courthouse was often considered sufficient and avoided undue expense for a fledgling community. As counties grew more populous and prosperous, the county's justices considered more elaborate masonry buildings to be appropriate venues for the administration of justice. A few examples of this trend, similar to Brunswick where a Greek Revival courthouse replaced an 18th-century frame building, include Frederick, Fluvanna, Mathews, and Mecklenburg (Lewes et al. 2007; Lounsbury 2005:349, 350, 366). As in Mecklenburg, Nansemond, Nottoway and other counties during the antebellum period, the Brunswick County's courthouse building commissioners chose an imposing temple form design with pedimented portico (Peters and Peters 1995).

Brunswick County's brick clerk's office, built in 1893, also demonstrates trends in the development of Virginia's courthouse squares. Over the course of the nineteenth century, county governments took measures to better organize and protect court documents. Eighteenth-century clerks often kept court records in their homes or in wooden public buildings, risking misplacement or burning of important documents. Over the course of the nineteenth century, standards for secure, fireproof records storage developed. With the construction of Brunswick's masonry courthouse in 1854, the county complied with contemporary standards that minimized risk of fire. Construction of a separate masonry building with slate roof went a step further toward securing court records, while also complementing the square's architecture with an impressive building that exhibited traits of the popular Richardsonian Romanesque Revival style (Lounsbury 2005: 304-305, 307).

In the early twentieth century, Brunswick County continued to mirror popular trends for courthouse grounds with construction of a monument commemorating Confederate veterans. The construction date of 1911 comes at the end of approximately four decades of commemorative fervor that began in the 1870s, when scores of similar Confederate monuments were built on courthouse squares across Virginia (Lounsbury 2005:331). With this precedent established, Virginia's citizens continued to treat the courthouse squares as commemorative spaces, building monuments to honor local veterans of twentieth-century wars similar to the ca. 1960 war memorial next to the Brunswick Courthouse (Lewes et al. 2007).

The Brunswick County Courthouse Square's setting of manicured lawns, walkways, and shade trees in the center of Lawrenceville also is representative of historic Virginia courthouse settings in Virginia. Whereas many counties are now served by massive courthouse and administrative buildings with large open parking areas (Chesterfield, Mathews, and Henrico, for example), historic courthouse greens have been preserved as park-like settings with harmonious collections of historic buildings. This was not always so. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, courthouse grounds were often "diminished by the shabbiness of the surroundings in which they stood" (Lounsbury 2005:315). Limited public investment was reflected in hastily built and poorly maintained stables, wells, jails, and privies, sometimes even with commercial enterprises such as taverns and shops on public land to serve the large court day gatherings (Lounsbury 2005:323). During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the informal public grounds gave way to orderly "civic squares," reflecting the changing aesthetic of the times and decline of court days as "sources of information and entertainment." County residents with wider access to newspapers and radio, telephone communication, and automobile transportation no longer flocked in great numbers to court days (Lounsbury 2005:335). Photographs of the taken in 1906, 1911, 1912, 1918, and 1938 document Brunswick County Courthouse Square's adherence to this trend toward order and tidiness. A wrought iron enclosure shown in NPS Form 10-900-a

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the 1906 photograph limited access to vehicles, but the grounds still appeared overgrown. Through time, though, the images depict an increasingly tidy appearance, with installation of curbing and formal sidewalks, removal of unsightly telephone poles, and planting of trees.

Likewise, the present collection of buildings and monuments—spanning Greek Revival, Richardsonian Romanesque, and Colonial Revival styles—exhibits a harmonious grouping of impressive civic architecture far different from the haphazard collections of public buildings present in earlier times. With construction of the 1998 Colonial Revival courthouse came the demolition of the 1890s jail, the last of the more prosaic buildings to be removed. Previously, a store, an attorney's office, a modest frame clerk's office, and a privy had stood on the square at various times."

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The Brunswick County Courthouse Square Historic District consists of the Brunswick County-owned property bounded on the north by Bank Street, on the east by Main Street, on the south by East Hicks Street, and on the west by Court Street.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary of the Brunswick County Courthouse Square Historic District is confined to the block bounded by Main, Bank, Court, and East Hicks streets. Examination of an 1832 plat, early twentieth-century fire insurance maps, and previous architectural survey documentation indicates that the existing and earlier courthouse and clerk's office, two former jail buildings, and the war monuments have historically been located within the square. The district boundary also encompasses land that has served (and continues to serve) judicial, cultural and civic functions, while the surrounding properties have been commercial and residential.

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**PHOTOGRAPHS**

All photographs are common to:

**PROPERTY: Brunswick County Courthouse Square Historic District**

**LOCATION: Brunswick County, Virginia**

**DHR FILE NO: 251-0001**

**PHOTOGRAPHER: David W. Lewes**

**DATE: July 22, 2009**

**ALL DIGITAL IMAGES ARE STORED AT: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia**

View: Main Street, Looking North

Image: VA\_BrunswickCounty\_CHSquareHD\_0001.tif

View: South End of Square toward East Hicks Street, Looking South

Image: VA\_BrunswickCounty\_CHSquareHD\_0002.tif

View: Streetscape along Court Street, Looking Southeast

Image: VA\_BrunswickCounty\_CHSquareHD\_0003.tif

View: View from Old Courthouse toward Main Street, Looking Southwest

Image: VA\_BrunswickCounty\_CHSquareHD\_0004.tif

View: Old Courthouse, West Elevation

Image: VA\_BrunswickCounty\_CHSquareHD\_0005.tif

View: Portico of Old Courthouse, Looking North

Image: VA\_BrunswickCounty\_CHSquareHD\_0006.tif

View: Staircase in Foyer of Old Courthouse from Courtroom Door, Looking West

Image: VA\_BrunswickCounty\_CHSquareHD\_0007.tif

View: Rear Addition on Old Courthouse, Looking East

Image: VA\_BrunswickCounty\_CHSquareHD\_0008.tif

View: Clerk's Office, West and North Elevations

Image: VA\_BrunswickCounty\_CHSquareHD\_0009.tif

View: Clerk's Office, Detail of Façade Entrance, West Elevation

Image: VA\_BrunswickCounty\_CHSquareHD\_0010.tif

View: Confederate Monument and Old Library, Looking Northeast

Image: VA\_BrunswickCounty\_CHSquareHD\_0011.tif

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View: New Courthouse, West and South Elevations  
Image: VA\_BrunswickCounty\_CHSquareHD\_0012.tif

View: Historic Horse Trough Behind New Courthouse  
Image: VA\_BrunswickCounty\_CHSquareHD\_0013.tif

View: Memorial to Local Veterans of World War I through Vietnam War, Looking East  
Image: VA\_BrunswickCounty\_CHSquareHD\_0014.tif

View: Brick Water Fountain  
Image: VA\_BrunswickCounty\_CHSquareHD\_0015.tif