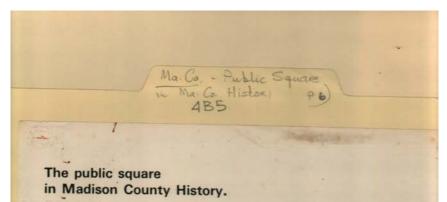
Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries B, Box 5, Folder 6 **Madison County Public Square Article**

r04b05-06-000-0318 Image 1 Contents Index About



At the time Madison County was created there were approximately 2,500 settlers living within its bounds. On December 19, 1808, five days after its creation. Stephen Neal, a resident of Washington City, Mississippi, was ap-pointed sheriff of the county as well as a justice of the peace. Thomas Freeman, chief government surveyor of Madison County lands, and two settlers, Hugh McVay and Benjamin Williams, also received commissions as jus-tions of the reason. tices of the peace.

Further steps of organization were taken on February 27, 1809, when the territorial legislature extended the laws of the United States and those of the Missiscippi Territory over Madison County. On March 3, 1809, three additional officers were appointed, Louis Winston, a lawyer serving as private secretary to Governor Williams was made attorney general, Peter Perkins of Mashwile, clerk of the circuit court, and William Winston of Madi son County, clerk of the county court.

The resignation of Governor Williams on March 3, fol-lowed by an interim of four months before David Holmes lowed by an interim of four months before David Holmes succeeded to this office, probably slowed down the com-pletion of appointments requisite to a full organization of the county's government. Shortly after assuming his duties as Mississippi Territorial governor on July 1, 1809, Holmes asked the aid of Attorney General Wirston of Madison County and William Dickson of Nashville in com-pleting the roster of Madison County officials.

Acting on recommendations saturated by these men, William Dickton, Edward Ward, and Peter Perkins of Nashrille, Tennessee, and LeRoy Pope and Thomas Biblio of Petersburg, Georgia, were named justices of the quorum on November 7, 1809. Dickson was named chief justice and William Winston, who had received his ap-pointment in March, was to act as clerk for the initial term of the Orghan's Court to be held on the first Monday in January, 1810. This court had jurisdiction in matters concerning the settlement of estates, care of the poor, transfer of lands, Jaying out of roads, licensing of min Acting on recommendations submitted by the transfer of lands, laying out of roads, licensing of min-isters, and enrolling of lawyers. If also served to supple-

The County of Madrison was created by proclamation of Governor Robert Williams of the Mississippi Territory are stated that the Public Square in Huntwille became the arctual seat of justice for Madrison County, Druing this intervening period the courts were created, officers and pointed, fee simple land titles established through the passed to establish a permanent county soat. At the time Madrison County Was created there were December 19, 1808, five days after its creation, Slippine Neal, a resident of Washington City, Mississippi Ter-tiones, Thomas, Freeman, chief government surveyor of the study.

ritary. The first term of the superior could of law and equity convened on October 1, 1810, with Judge Jones presid-ing, Peter Perkins serving as clerk, and Louis Winston as Attorney Contral. The minutes of the court do not record the place where this session was held, but it does record that John C. Hamilton, George Coulter, Gabrief More, James Regers, Louis Winston, Marmatuke Williams, and John W. Walker produced their commissions and were untility to coarding-law. authorized to practice law

Sheriff Stephen Neal, remoutive officer of the co second subpect was encoded and a subpect was accounted with a subpect was a subpect of the court, second and a subpect of the court, and performing other duties assigned to him by the judge. He was assisted in his work by John Hunt, pioneer settler for whom Huntsville was named, who was appointed coroner on May 16, 1810.

To insure law and order in the various settlement throughout the county, John Grayson, John Kirksley, W Isam Lanicr, Abraham Perkins, John Martin, and Geo Dilworth were appointed justices of the peace and Da Cobb was named constable. Other officials added to the county's roster in 1810 and 1811, were Gabriel Moore, tax assessor, collector, and census taker; Hugh McVay, county surveyor; and Bermett Wood, treasurer.

To provide for defensely wood, presider, To provide for defensely wood, presider, created as Madison County's unit of the Mississippi terri-torial militia and Colonel Peter Perkins was appointed commander of the group on January 4, 1810. During the following summer all the able bodied mon between the ages of sixteen and fifty organized into eight companies and on October 29, 1810, the first county-wide muster was held. Governor David Holmes attended at the request of Louis Winston who felt that the Governor's presence uld have a tendency to quiet some of the discontent

Names:

Bibb, Thomas Coulter, George Dickson, William Dilworth, George Freeman, Thomas Grayson, John Hamilton, John C. Holmes, David, Governor Hunt, John

Jones, Obadiah Kirksley, John Lanier, William Madison County Created Martin, John McVay, Hugh Moore, Gabriel Neal, Stephen Perkins, Abraham Perkins, Peter Pope, LeRoy Rogers, James Walker, John W. Ward, Edward Williams, Benjamin Williams, Marmaduke Williams, Robert, Governor

Winston, Louis Winston, William Wood, Bennett Public Square in Madison County History

Madison County, AL

Mississippi Territory

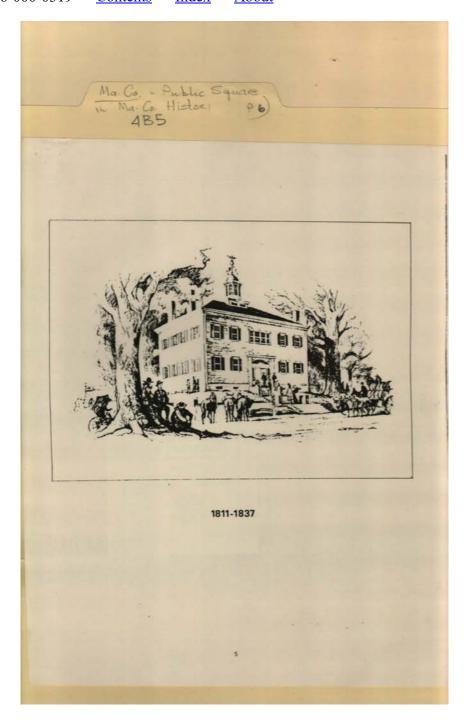
Types:

booklet

Dates:

Dec 13, 1808

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection:Series 4, Subseries B, Box 5, Folder 6Madison County Public Square ArticleImage 2r04b05-06-000-0319ContentsIndexAbout



Names:

Madison County Courthouse

Places:

Madison County, AL

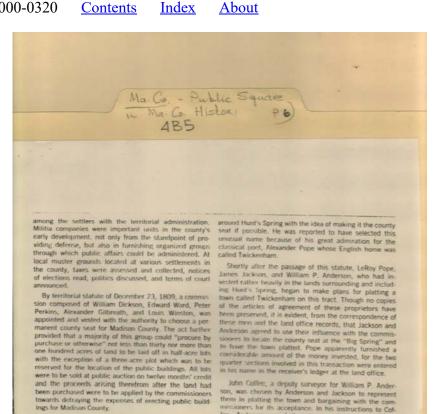
Types:

drawing

Dates:

1811-1837

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries B, Box 5, Folder 6 **Madison County Public Square Article** r04b05-06-000-0320 Image 3 Contents



John Collece, a deputy surveyor for William P. Ander-son, was chosen by Anderson and Jackson to represent them in platting the town and bargaining with the com-nicsioners for its acceptance. In his instructions to Cd-ler, Anderson urged that the town plat be made as "tuching as possible and the ground on which it shall startd as eligible as may be."

John W. Walker, LeRoy Pope's son-in-law, represented him in hargaining with the commissioner for acceptable torms on which they would agree to locate the county seat at the Huntville settlement. By this time, Hunt's Spring was generally spoken of as Huntsville, and the county nurt had converned its first session in this community. Walker's job, besides securing the support of the Madison County commissioners, included the superintendence of the salk of loss in the torm rolat presented for the new. the sale of lots in the town plat reserved for the proprictors.

In late June, Coffee surveyed the original plat of "Twickenhum" in order that it would be ready for the commissioner's meeting scheduled for the first week in July, 1810. The strends of the town were laid out with reference in the spring bluff and ran at the peculiar angle of thirty-four degrees north of west. By this arrangement lifered Struct became the basis for the survey and or innervoir lageres notified west, by this arrangement pelferson Street became the basis for the survey and made it possible for the spring area to be exclosed in one of the three acce squares included in the plot. Three streets to the east and one to the west were surveyed parallel to Jefferson and six perpendicular to it. The rec-tangle thus formed contained twenty squares of three acres each or sixty acres exclusive of the land included

Anderson, William P.

Coffee, John Dickson, William

Places:

Names:

Madison County, AL

Types:

booklet

Gilbreath, Alexander Jackson, James Perkins, Peter

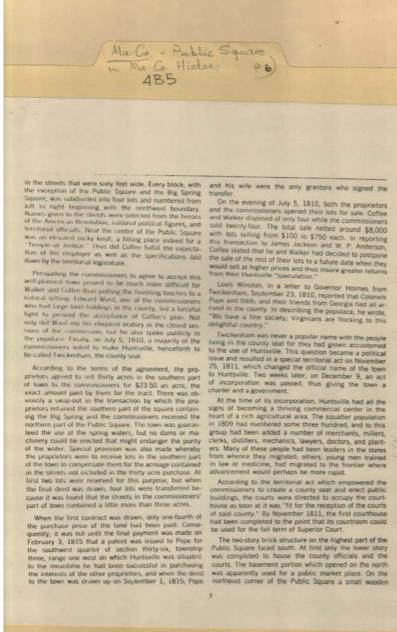
The second section of the act stated that the town to be laid out would "be called and known by the name of Twickenham." According to tradition, this name was sug-

gested by LeRoy Pope, who had purchased the lands

Pope, Alexander Pope, LeRoy Walker, John W.

Ward, Edward Winston, Louis

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries B, Box 5, Folder 6 **Madison County Public Square Article** r04b05-06-000-0321 Image 4 Contents Index About



Names: Anderson, William P.

Bibb, Coffee,

Places:

Madison County, AL

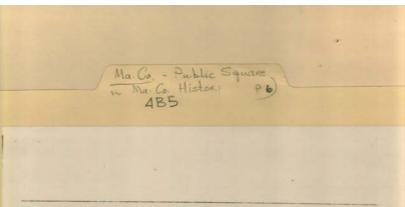
Types:

booklet

Holmes, Governor Jackson, James Pope, LeRoy

Walker, Ward, Edward Winston, Louis

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries B, Box 5, Folder 6 **Madison County Public Square Article** r04b05-06-000-0322 Image 5 Index About Contents



as stores were constructed on all sides of it. Not until after the depressing years of the War of 1812 did the county officials take the necessary steps to pro-vide for the completion of the second story of the court-house. By a special territorial act of December 16, 1819 the justices of county court were empowered to act as commissioners to contract for and superintend its com-pletion. The measure also provided for the purchase it suitable lot upon which to construct an adequate jail and capital of 500,000 pillory.

pillory. On June 10, 1817, William M. Watkins and John H. Hickman entered into a contract with LeRoy Pope, Abner Tatum, and David Moore, Justices of the Guorum, to undertake the completion of the courthouse within five months. The agreement included placement of encared window sashes in the upper story, repairing the crown modding of the cornice, covering the roof of the court-house and its cupola with new poplar shingles, remodel-ing the cupola, and topping it with "a new and neat turned block dressed off with gold liner and a new spare (sic) and twin blocks dressed off with gilt and crown the whole with a neat gilt Eagle not less than three feet across." When it was determined that the undesignated funds.

Across." When it was determined that the undesignated funds in the county treasury were not sufficient to cover the cost of completing the courthouse and constructing a jail, a special tax not to exceed one-half of the territorial levy was authorized by the legislature on February 13, 1818, to provide the necessary finances. Although no permanent record was made of construction and total cost of the first public buildings, Judge Thomas Jones Taylor stated in his *Early History of Madison County* that the second jail was constructed on lot number fourteen located at the corner of Greene and Cliniton Streets. By 1818 the Public Source had become the hub of

the corner of Greene and Clinton Streets. By 1818, the Public Square had become the hub of extensive activity. Ann Royal in her travel account, Letters from Alabama, reported on January 1, 1818, that Hunts vilic contained 260 houses made principally of brids a bank, a courthouse, a market place, and many stores square in the conter of the town, like the town in Ohio, facing this are the stores, twelve in number. The build facing this are like stores, twelve in number. The build the workmanship is the best I have seen in all the State; The workmanship is the best I have seen in all the State;

all with pillory was constructed to care for public of-fenders. During this early period the courthouse served as a meeting place for both civic and religious groups, and the carolinas — though there the Public Square became the hub of commercial activity as stores were constructed on all sides of it. Not until after the decressing years of the War of 1812

Inke it in our country. In August of 1819, another writer described the country seat thus. Huntsville is the principal and oldest fowm in the Valley of (The) Tennessee (River), and is the capital of Madison Country. The United States have here a land office which, since its establishmetri (1811). has done more business than any two others. It has a bank with a capital of 500,000 dollars (Planters and Merchants Bank); two prioring others, and 2:500 inhabitants. It is a most flourishing town, in the midst of one of the linest counties on narth. Here met the Convention in July, 1819. In frame the Centifulation for, the government of the to frame the Constitution for the government of the State

State. The convention mentioned in this description convened in Huntsville's Assembly hall located on the corner of Franklin and Gates Streets on July 5, 1819, and by August 2 it had written and adopted Alabama's first state constitution. Since many of the political leaders of the newly crasted Alabama Territory lived in Madison County, it was through their influence that Huntsville was chosen as the temporary capital of the state from July through December of 1819.

December of 1819. After the Constitution was completed, elections were held throughout Alabams on the third Monday and Tues-day of September 1819, to choose state officials and members of the legislature. On October 25, the legisla-ture convened in temporary guarters to begin its work-On November 7, the House of Representatives began holding its meetings in the courtroom on the ground floor of the courthouse, and on November 9. William Wyatt libb was inaugurated governor in this room in the presence of a joint session of the House and Senate. Normally, the Senate held its deliberations in a room located in the house of James Dunn which was rented for this purpose. The work of this first legislature session was monumental in that is eved the needs of the people for many years.

Names:

Bibb, William Wyatt Dunn, James Hickman, John H.

Places:

Madison County, AL

Types:

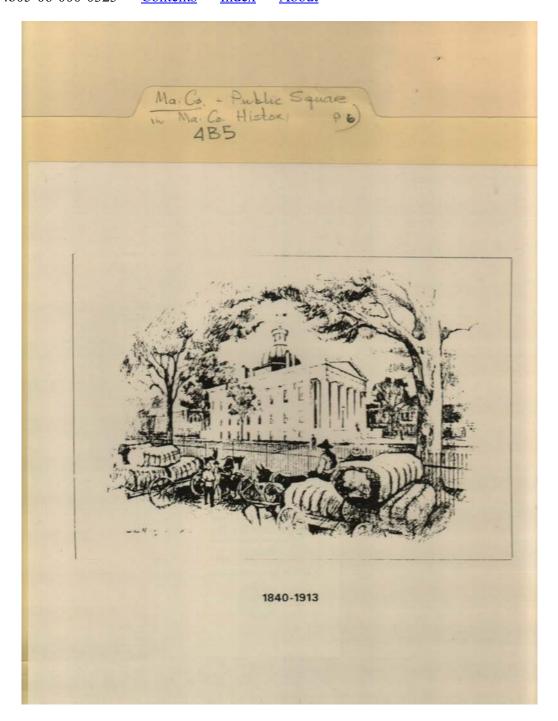
booklet

Moore, David Pope, LeRoy Royal, Ann

Tatum, Abner Taylor, Thomas Jones, Judge

Watkins, William M.

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries B, Box 5, Folder 6Madison County Public Square ArticleImage 6r04b05-06-000-0323ContentsIndexAbout



Names:

Madison County Courthouse

Places:

Madison County, AL

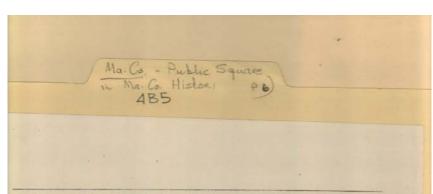
Types:

drawing

Dates:

1840-1913

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries B, Box 5, Folder 6Madison County Public Square ArticleImage 7r04b05-06-000-0324ContentsIndexAbout



of the Alabama Territory, certain changes were made in its court system. The superior court was replaced by a state circuit court system, and Madison was made a part of the fifth judicial circuit in 1819 with Clement Comer Clay of Huntsville designated by the state legislature as presiding judge. Initially only the title of the county governing body was changed from Justices of the Quorum to Inferior Court in 1819, but two years later, sweeping changes were made which involved its jurisdiction and the selection of its members. A legislative act of 1821 aboished the five man county court and made provision for one judge to be selected by the legislature and to hold office "during good behavior." After 1831, his office was limited to a term of six years. Besides: the civil judicial powers vested in this office, the county judge was also made the presiding officer of the commissioner's court created by the same act. Samuel Chapman became the first judge of this court, and James Manning. Gross Scrugg, Charles Betts, and Samuel Walker were elected to serve as members of the commissioner's court for a one-year term. In 1827, the commissioner's term of office was changed to three years.

The powers of the commissioner's court, predecessor of the present board of commissioners, included the levying of such general and special taxes as were necessary to maintain county government, controlling the property and finances of the county, constructing and maintaining roads, and appointing certain county officials as directed by law.

By 1830, the roster of county offices included commissioners of roads and revenue, county and orphans' court, circuit court, juscice of the peace, notary public, circuit solicitor, sheriff, coroner, constable, tax assessor and collector, treasurer, county auctioneer, road apportioner and overseer, overseer of the poor, and county surveyor. This increase in the number of local officials is but one indication of the rapid growth of the county during its formative period.

The federal census figures for Madison County in 1820 showed a population of 17,481 almost evenly divided between whites and slaves, but by 1830 this figure had risen to 27,990 with the slave population making up fifty-three per cent of the total. A further analysis of the Alabama census shows that Madison County continued to hold first place in population and wealth in the state.

Amid the prosperous years of the early 1830's, the commissioner's court made plans to build an imposing new courthouse to accommodate the needs of an expand-

ing government and to grace the center of what was considered to be one of the most beautiful towns in the South. A special legislative act, passed on January 10, 1835, empowered the Madison commissioners to levy a tax for the purpose of defraying the expense involved in building a new courthouse in the town of Huntsyville.

Meanwhile George Steele and Thomas and William Brandon, local architects and builders, were asked to submit proposed plans for the design and cost of the structure. On August 29, 1835, the commissioner's court adopted the plans drawn up by George Steele, and a committee was appointed to seek proposals from contractors who would undertake its construction. Advertisements for bids were placed in the Huntsville and Nashville papers, but none was forthcoming that was acceptable to the commissioner's court. Because immediate funds were needed in order to let a contract prior to the time that tax funds were made available, the county officials asked the state legislature to empower them to borrow \$12,000 from the Branch Bank of Alabama located in Huntsville.

The next attempt to secure bids for construction of the new courthouse bore fruit. Dr. Thomas Fearn and James L. Donegan, prominent businessmen of Huntsville, were selected by the commissioners to receive proposals on or before December 1, 1836, and to let a contract for a building to be constructed in accordance with George Steele's plan. They also were directed 'to superintend the same in every manner and respect."

Early in 1837, the firm of Mitchell and Wilson was employed to construct a two-story stone and brick building with a dome on top and a full basement beneath at an approximate cost of \$31,000.

The building of Stephen S. Ewing located on the Public Square was rented to serve as a courtroom and county clerk's office while the new courthouse was under construction. According to the commissioner's court records, this building served as the temporary courthouse from August of 1837 to January of 1840. Apparently the new courthouse was occupied before its final completion during the early part of 1842.

On April 2, 1838, George Steele was appointed superintendent over the contractors to insure proper execution of the plans which he had drawn for the new courthouse. For his services, which were to extend to January 1, 1840, he was allowed \$1,500. The agreement further stipulated that in the event the building was not completed by 1840, then he was to receive further compensation for his work after that date. Because the project did extend well into

Names:

Betts, Charles Brandon, Thomas Brandon, William

Places:

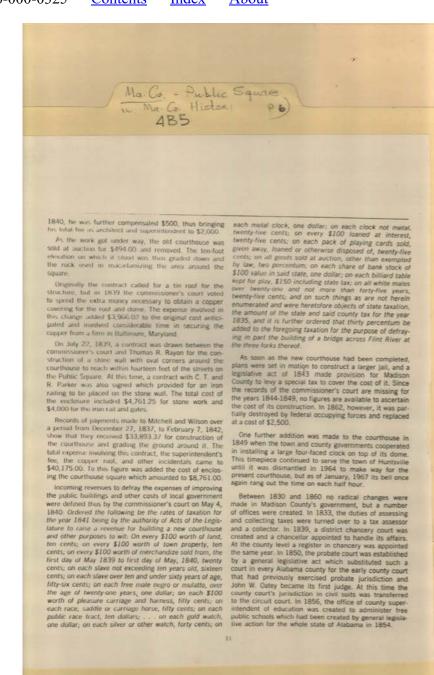
Madison County, AL

Types:

booklet

Chapman, Samuel Clay, Clement Comer Donegan, James I. Ewing, Stephen S. Fearn, Thomas, Dr. Manning, James Scruggs, Gross Steele, George Walker, Samuel

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries B, Box 5, Folder 6Madison County Public Square ArticleImage 8r04b05-06-000-0325ContentsIndexAbout



Names:

Mitchell & Wilson Oatey, John W.

•

Places: Madison County, AL

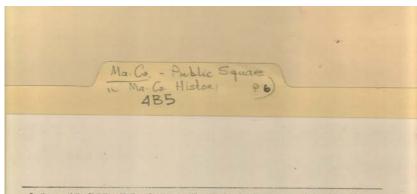
Types:

booklet

Parker, C. T. Parker, R. Rayon, Thomas R.

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries B, Box 5, Folder 6 **Madison County Public Square Article**

r04b05-06-000-0326 Image 9 Index About Contents



On the eve of the Civil War, Madison County was still considered one of the wealthier areas of the state and its political influence in state affairs remained strong. Hunts-ville also continued to be a key economic and cultural center in the Tennessee Valley. Because of its strategic position on the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, it was occupied by federal troops as early as April 11, 1852, and restring the scripting imposed to post. and continued to suffer the privations imposed by occupation until the war ended in 1865.

When it became evident that the courthouse would be taken over by federal military officials, most of the public records were removed to Blount County for safekeeping. Though the courthouse itself weathered the ravages of the war period, it, like many other structures in the town, received some permanent scars.

The reconstruction years in Madison County, in many The reconstruction years in Macison Councy, in many respects, were more trying than the war years had been. This period was marked by inefficiency in government at all levels as well as economic depression. With the adop-tion of the Alabama constitution in 1875, local and state government resumed a more normal pattern of existence, and economy and honesty in government were empha-sized to the detriment of needed educational and health services.

In 1879, a board of education was created for Madison County, but adequate financial aid to public education was not forthcoming until the first decade of the twentieth century. The post of county health officer was created as early as 1881, but it was not until after a series of typhoid epidemics in Huntsville that a movement was begun which resulted in the establishment of a Madison County Health Department in 1918.

Health Department in 1918. Between 1880 and 1900, business leaders of Madison County worked to improve agriculture and bring in a variety of industries which would revitalize the economy. Nurseries were established, cotton textile mills built, and an assortment of small factories opened to produce wood products, small tools and implements. Monte Sano Mountain was developed as a summer resort in 1887 to attract tourists from all parts of the nation — a venture brought increased prosperity to Madison County's rural ipopulation, and this prosperity in turn aided the expan-sion of commercial interests in the town of Huntsville.

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siderably diminished in terms of state affairs. Tennessee Valley political leaders were no longer serious contenders for the governorship or other state offices.

After the adoption of the Alabama constitution of 1901, Madison County government became less autonomous. While continuing to retain its traditional functions regard-ing strictly local affairs, the county became more and more an administrative district of the state. As federal and state governments began to assume more responsi-bility for rendering services to people. Alabama tightened its control over tax assessment and collection, law en-forcement, election administration, education, health, and public wellare at the county level.

As the number of county officials increased, the second As the number of county discuis increased, the second courthouse was no longer adequate to furnish office space for them. Once again, as in the 1830's, the com-missioner's court began to consider the feasibility of con-structing a new courtboure. The commissioners as well as the people were divided on the question.

strating a new could out the commissioners as well as the people were divided on the neursion. The search of the second of the s

which prospered until 1900. Envertsification in agriculture brought increased prosperity to Madison County's rural goulation, and this prosperity in turn aided the expan-sion of commercial interests in the town of Huntsville. The federal census of 1910 listed the population of Huntsville as 7,611 and that of Madison County as 47,040 thus showing an increase of almost one hundred per cent within a fifty-year period. Although the county remained economically prosperous, its political influence was con-

Names:

Colley, C. K.

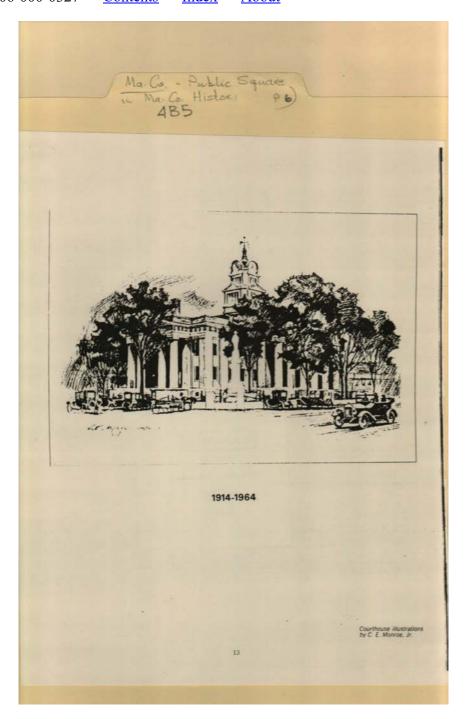
Places:

Madison County, AL

Types:

booklet

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries B, Box 5, Folder 6Madison County Public Square ArticleImage 10r04b05-06-000-0327ContentsIndexAbout



Names:

Madison County Courthouse

Places:

Madison County, AL

Types:

drawing

Dates:

1914-1964

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries B, Box 5, Folder 6 **Madison County Public Square Article** r04b05-06-000-0328 Image 11 Contents Index About

Ma. Co. - Public Square 96 485

14

a third entrance facing west were to be added to the do so long and well as the old. The cornerstone will be a third entrance facing west were to be added to the do so long and well as the dd. The correctance will be structure. To linance this project, warrants were to be facilities at 11-00 diversion of the correctance will be to be the structure of a la large diversion of the correctance will be to be the structure of a large diversion of the correct market. The correct large of Atabama Everyone in Madron County is invited. Refrestments will be served and several sy means later to be determined by the court. To losses #55,000 worth or losses #55,000 worth o and its turnishings.

The bid submitted by Little-Cleckler Construction Com-pany for \$59,000 was accepted on June 16, 1913, and plans were put in motion to renove the county officials' offices to the Elks Building the second week in July.

As work progressed during the second week in July. As work progressed during the summer months, it be-came evident that the walls and columns of the old build-ing were in a crumbling condition, thus making it neces-sary to reconsider the construction of an entirely new building. The commissioner's court agreed on October 6, 1913, to build a new structure of the best quality of light or gray colored brick with four entrances. Columns to be used on all four porticos were to be of hewn solid stone-and fluted like the ones in the old courthouse. A sum of \$10,000 was appropriated to cover the increased cost involved in these changes.

At this term of court the commissioners also voted to accept the offer of the custodian of the United States Court Building to allow the various county courts use of this facility while the courthouse was being constructed.

Work progressed on schedule, and by April 22, 1914, a contract was let with the Art Metal Construction Com-pany to supply the furnishings for the courthouse at a cost of \$12,522.18. By mid-August Little-Cleckler Con-struction Company had finished their work and plans were made to dedicate the building on September 10, 1914.

On September 9, the Huntsville Mercury Banner an-On September 9, the Huntswile Mercury Banner an-nounced the forthcoming event and took occasion to comment on the courthouse which had recently been torn down....The add building was designed after the Greek Parthenon. It had a great history, and could its oat wats have spoken they could have told of the aratory and elo-quence of great lawyers, distinguished Congressmen, famous Senators in Congress and Presidents of the Re-public. Built, like all things of earth, having served its pui-pose and lived out its years of usefulness it possed away to make room for the new, larger, and better suited struc-ture for the present day demands. May it (the new one)

ings of those who had been the most severe critics of change.

The Confederate Soldier, a memorial to the confederate dead, placed on the west lawn by the U. D. C. in 1905 and the D. A. R. plaque containing a roll of Revolutionary sol-diers buried in Markon County placed at the north en-trance also remained to lend further evidence fluid all was not changed amid the rush of economic progress.

not changed amid the rush of economic progress. Late in 1914, the herd of pet riew which had lived on the countboue lawn was transformed to the McCornick estate on Meridian Street, but the iron fence continued to serve as hitching posts around the Public Square for some years. After a hended argument concerning its re-moval, it was finally taken down in 1921 and a heavy iron chain put in its place. When it was discovered that the fig Spring, the town's main water supply, was being pol-luided by manure seepage from the hitching area around the Public Square, the commissioner's court had to take action in spite of the protests of those who hated to see the old landmark go.

the old landmark go. And the economic expansion engendered by World War I and the hoom period of the 1920's, the county gov-ernment increased its activities as an administrative agent of the state in 1911, the office of farm agent was created and in 1915 the position of home demonstration agent was added to farm extension service in Madison County. A license inspector was appointed in 1919 and in 1923 the Board of Review, later called the Board of Equalica-tion, was established for a permanent basis. In 1923, the board of county commissioners replaced the board of revenue which had replaced the old commissioners of a number of justices of the peace was initiated in 1911, and a circuit court for the individual county of Madison was created as the twenty/third judicial circuity of Madison was created as the twenty/third judicial circuity of he state of Alabama in 1931. With the coming of the defare in 1935 which later became known as the Depart-ment of Pensions and Securities.

Names:

Art Metal Construction Co.

Places:

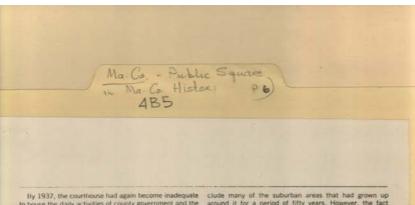
Madison County, AL

Types:

booklet

Little-Cleckler Construction Co. McCormick,

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries B, Box 5, Folder 6 **Madison County Public Square Article** r04b05-06-000-0329 Image 12 Contents Index About



needs of an expanding population.

With the advent of the Tennessee Valley Authority, created by act of Congress in 1933, the potential for great economic expansion in Midison County, in well as the whole valley, soon became apparent. The varied T.V.A. programs resulting in more adequate flood control, im-proved water transportation, better land utilization, and the appropriate of distribution before the conduction of distribution. the production of abundant hydroelectric power, did much to aid the valley's recovery from the depression years of the 1930's.

Between 1940 and 1966 Marlison County experienced the largest population growth in its history. In 1941, just before the onthreak of World War II, the federal government made plans to place two large installations just south of the city of Huntsville. The Chemical Warfare Service built a chemical manufacturing plant on a site which became the Huntsville Arsenal, and the Ordhance Department constructed a shell loading plant close by at Rolstone Arsenal. As the end of the war approached, the work force at these two installations had grown to 20,000.

work force at these two installations had grown to 20,000. Shortly after V-J Day-on September 2, 1945, all pro-duction facilities were placed on standby. Not until June 1, 1949, when Redutine Ansenal was reactivated to fulfill a new mission for the Ordnance Department, did the mili-ary contribute substantially to the growth of the county's conomy. With the transfer of a small group of German missile experts to Huntsville in 1950, there began a new rea. The areas included in both arsenals were combined to form the Redstone Arsenal complex which, by 1966, included extensive activity related to research, develop-ment, and training for missile and space vehicle pro-grams. Total employment of the George C. Marshall Space flight Center and the various United States Army missile facilities thad reached approximately 40,000 with an annual payroll of more than \$200 million. The total yearly of more than \$460 million and the annual agricultural income stood at a figure in excess of \$23 million. Census reports also reflected the extent of Madison

Census reports also reflected the extent of Madison County's growth. In 1950, its official population stood at 72,903, in 1960 at 117,348, and in September 1964 at 173,284. The dramatic juntp in Huntsville's population from 16,437 in 1950 to 72,360 in 1960 can be explained to earth but the extension of the other but in 1960 can be explained 173,284. The dramatic jumps in Huntsville's population from 16,437 in 1950 to 72,360 in 1960 can be explained in part by the extension of the city limits in 1956 to in-Square for a multi-story structure, the commissioners

15

By 1937, the countinuuse had again become inadequate clude many of the suburban areas that had grown up to house the daily activities of county government and the around it for a period of fifty years. However, the fact Like Building on Excitis Street was acquired to relieve the that Huntsville's population doubled between 1960 and Stration. Extensive renovation of the counthouse in 1940 1966 to reach an estimated 144,000 by January J, brought some relief but not enough to take care of the suburban areas that had grown up around it for a period of fifty years. However, the fact that Huntsville's population doubled between 1960 and 1966 to reach an estimated 144,000 by January J, 1967, can best be attributed to its increased role in the mission and space effort of the linked States. 1967, can best be attributed to its increased role in the missile and space effort of the United States.

Amid the rapid transformation taking place in all seg-ments of life in Madison County, planning became a key factor in the activities of both city and county governing bodies. Working together, these governments set in motion extensive expansion and planning programs to allow orderly growth and to provide adequate services to its people. Such planning included a new municipal building. courthouse, library, auditorium, arts center, and con munity park areas.

Planning for a new courthouse began as early as April 13, 1961, when the board of commissioners voted to se-cure the services of Space Utilization Associates to survey the space needs of the county. On December 4, 1961, The chairman of the board of county commissioners was authorized to employ two architectural firms, recom-mended by this group, to draw up preliminary plans for a new building. Three months later on March 2, 1962, the Madison County Public Building Authority was created to implement the financing of the new courthouse. James R. implement the financing of the new courthouse, sames re-Cleary became uttorney for this group to help work out the details of financing which included a plan whereby \$4,501,500 could be secured by the sale of bonds and 0.000 for Inded over a period of thirty years. On August 20, 1962, the commissioners voted to retain the Public Square as the location of the new building and raze the existing courthouse.

courthouse. Public hearings were set for October to let citizens recores their views concerning this decision. Once again those who loved the old familiar atmosphere of the Public Square tried to keep it intact, but the forces of change were too strong to allow the "inneteenth century look" to remain. When the Huntsville Historical Society, one of the chief defenders of historic preservation, re-arrounded its cause was futile, its members sought to com-promise with those who wanted a "modern look" on the new courthouse be of a "inneless type." They also urged that the southeastern residential section of "Old Huntsville" the southeastern residential section of an historical zone to be known as the Twickenham District. After considering the advice of architects, engineers,

Names:

Cleary, James R.

Places:

Madison County, AL

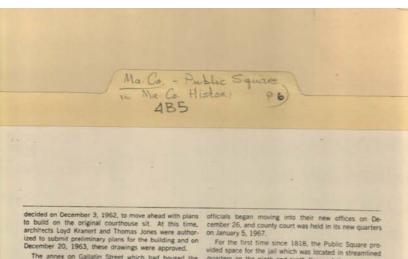
Types:

booklet

George C. Marshall Space Flight Center

Redstone Arsenal T. V. A.

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries B, Box 5, Folder 6 **Madison County Public Square Article** r04b05-06-000-0330 Image 13 Contents Index About



December 20, 1963, these drawings were approved. The annex on Gallatin Street which had housed the educational program of the First Baptist Church before it was moved to Governors Drive was rented for use as a temporary courthouse, and county officials moved their offices to this location on August 20, 1964. The United States Courtroom located in the downtown postoffice on Holmes Avenue was used by the courts from September 1964 until December 1966.

1994 until December 1966. On October 1, 1964, Bama Wrecking Company was awarded a \$37,050 contract to demolish the old court-house. The contents of the 1914 cornerstone were re-moved for salekeeping, and the twenty massive stone columns were retrieved to be used elsewhere as a re-minder of Huntsville's architectural pasts. In 1966, the Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee pro-posed a plan for their use in constructing a Parthenon-type structure on the Burritt Museum property on Round Top Mountain.

Chamber of Commerce posed a plan for their use in constructions type structure on the Burritt Museum property on Routs and the Public Building Authority awarded a contract to Pearce, Demoss, and King of Decatur, Alabama, on March 16, 1965, for \$4,501,500 to construct an eleven-story building with basement. Since the jail was to be placed on the ninth and tenth stories of the new courthouse, the commissioners voted an October 8, 1965, to sell the obj all. They also agreed at this time to sell the courthouse, the must advertue. As work on the new structure progressed, it was determined than an additional court incommissioners voted to provide space for the four circuit judges new serving Madison Courty. For this purpose the solitier as he stood on the lawn of the First National Bank awaiting. Nat master back to his station on the volucies for the courthouse project to approximately \$5,301,500 to the original contract price, the county contributes furtisfing and equipment thus bringing the total corr of the courthouse project to approximately \$5,301,500 to the original contract price, we contract were awarded to various business firms for equipment and furnishing the various business firms for equipment the the worth the state with a deficient news at this statil served as the seat of courty isoperated their newsets. Temple of Jus-tee Netal Construction company the Metal Co

of the courthouse project to approximately \$5,301,500. During the summer months contracts were awarded to various business firms for equipment and furnishings at a cost of approximately \$300,000. Business Equipment Company, dealers for Art Metal Construction Company, and Roberts and Sons filmingham were the two prin-cipal contractors selected to supply most of the items required. Though the original September 26, 1966, dead: Inte for completion was not met, the new courthouse was occupied within three months of the target date. County

on January 5, 1957. For the first time since 1818, the Public Square pro-vided space for the jail which was located in streamlined quarters on the ninth and tenth floors of the new court-house. When the third jail on lot number fourteen had become too small, a site on Jefferson Street had been secured and a three-story brick building completed in 1929 at a cost of \$84,000. Prisones were transferred from this location to their new quarters on January 28, 1967. 1967.

1967. The one part of the original courthouse complex no olonger associated with Public Square was the market house. When the first courthouse was torn down, the pub-lic market was moved to the Holding Block east of the Square. In 1850, it was transferred to a site near the corner of Clinton and Washington Streets where it re-mained until 1914. Between this date and 1935, farmers once again marketed their produce in the parking area on all four sides of the Square but in 1935, the county unnished farmers a covered market house near the Big Spring branch directly across from the present City Utilities Building. In 1963 this facility was moved to Cook versue, N.W. to make way for the relocation of a portion of Galatin Street in the Heart of Huntsvile Plan. Although the courthouse lawn was newly landscaped in 1966, the historic markers and monuments were re-

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Names:

Art Metal Construction Co. Bama Wrecking Co.

Places:

Madison County, AL

Types:

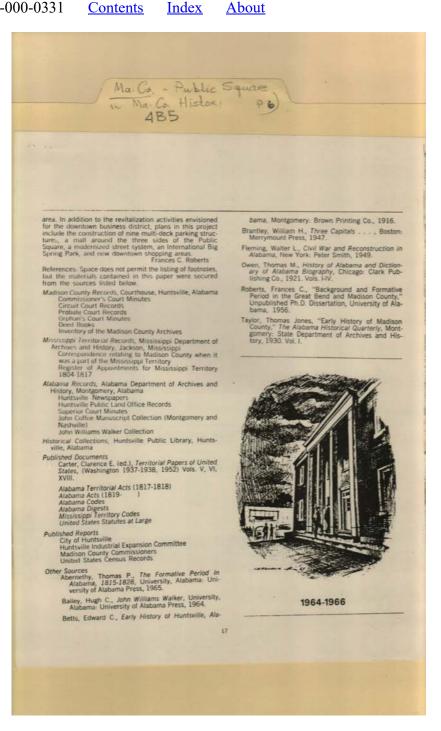
booklet

Business Equipment Co. Jones, Thomas

Kranert, Lloyd Pearce, Demoss & King

Roberts and Sons

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Names:

Abernethy, Thomas P. Bailey, Hugh C. Betts, Edward C.

Places:

Madison County, AL

Types:

booklet

Dates:

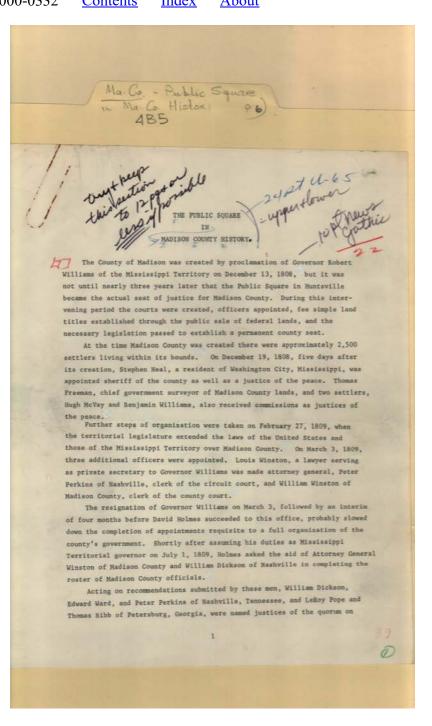
1964-1966

Brantley, William H. Carter, Clarence E. Fleming , Walter L.

drawing

Madison County Courthouse Owen, Thomas M. Roberts, Frances C. Taylor, Thomas Jones

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries B, Box 5, Folder 6Madison County Public Square ArticleImage 15r04b05-06-000-0332ContentsIndexAbout



Names:

Bibb, Thomas Dickson, William Freeman, Thomas Holmes, David, Governor

Places:

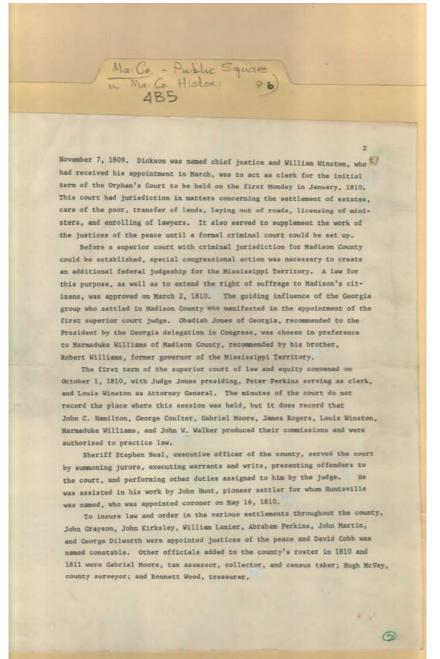
Madison County, AL

Types:

essay

McVay, Hugh Neal, Stephen Perkins, Peter Pope, LeRoy Ward, Edward Williams, Benjamin Williams, Robert, Governor Winston, Louis Winston, William Public Square in Madison County History

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries B, Box 5, Folder 6Madison County Public Square ArticleImage 16r04b05-06-000-0333ContentsIndexAbout



Names:

Coulter, George Dickson, William Dilworth, George Grayson, John Hamilton, John C. Hunt, John

Places:

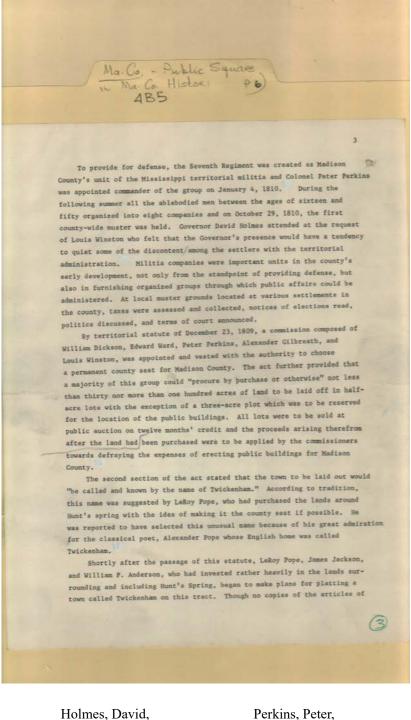
Madison County, AL

Types:

essay

Jones, Obadiah Kirksley, John Lanier, William Martin, John Moore, Gabriel Neal, Stephen Perkins, Abraham Perkins, Peter Rogers, James Walker, John W. Williams, Marmaduke Williams, Robert Winston, Louis Winston, William

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries B, Box 5, Folder 6Madison County Public Square ArticleImage 17r04b05-06-000-0334ContentsIndexAbout



Pope, LeRoy Ward, Edward Winston, Louis

Names:

Anderson, William P. Dickson, William Gilbreath, Alexander

Places:

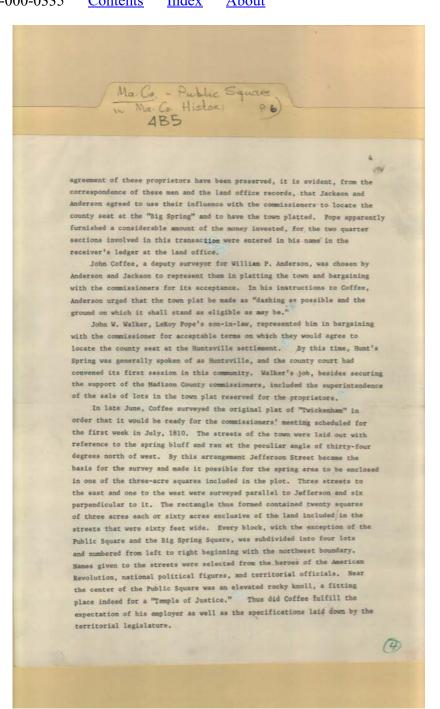
Madison County, AL

Types:

essay

Holmes, David Governor Jackson, James Perkins, Peter, Colonel Pope, Alexander

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Names:

Anderson, William P. Coffee, John

Places: Madison County, AL

Types:

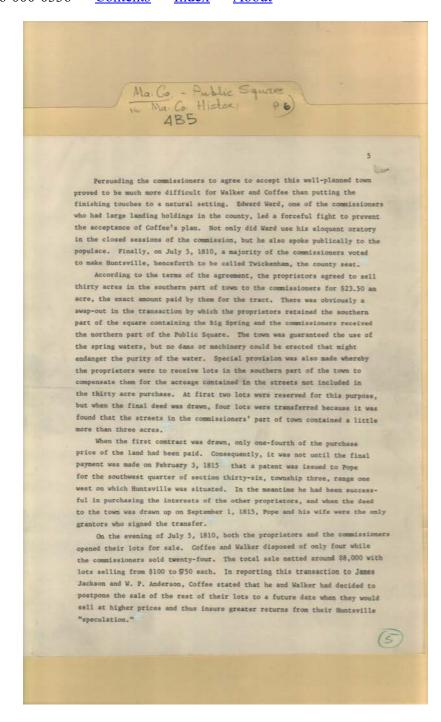
essay

Jackson,

Pope,

Walker, John W.

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Names:

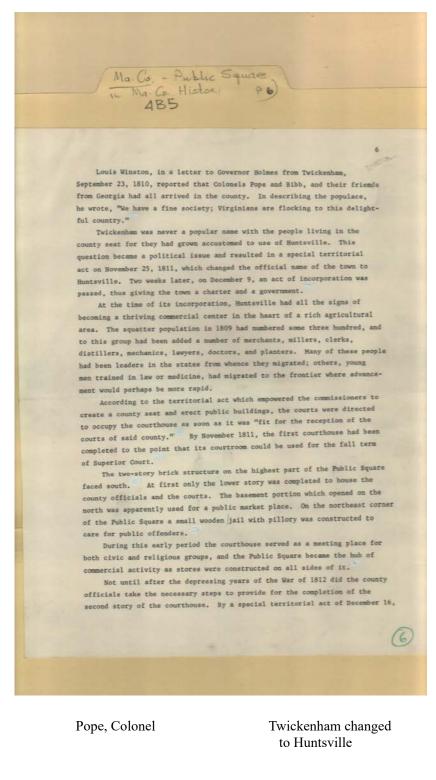
Anderson, William P. Coffee, Jackson, James Walker, Ward, Edward

Places:

Madison County, AL

Types:

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Winston, Louis

Names:

Bibb, Colonel Holmes, Governor

Places:

Madison County, AL

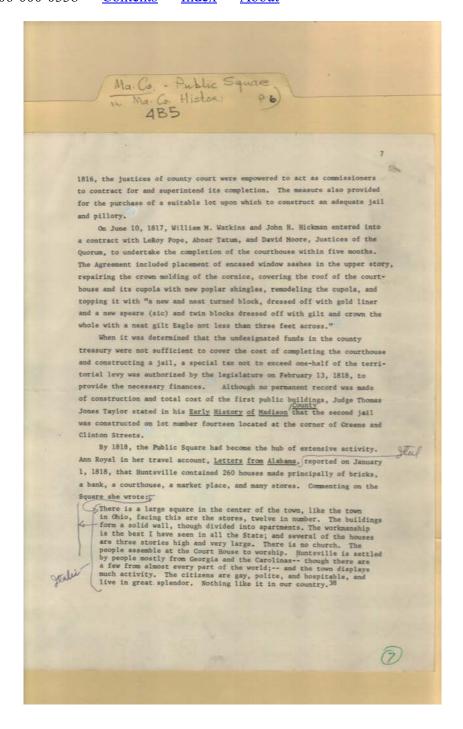
Types:

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Dates:

Nov 25, 1811

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Names:

Hickman, John H. Moore, David Pope, LeRoy

Places:

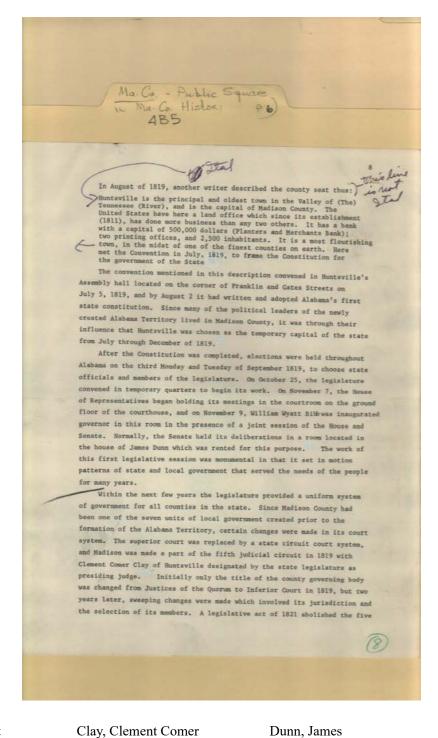
Madison County, AL

Types:

essay

Royal, Ann Tatum, Abner Taylor, Thomas Jones, Judge Watkins, William M. Early History of Madison County Letters from Alabama

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries B, Box 5, Folder 6Madison County Public Square ArticleImage 22r04b05-06-000-0339ContentsIndexAbout



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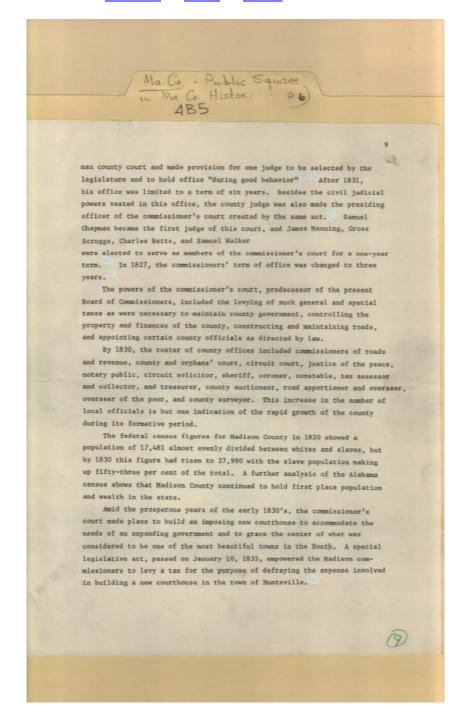
Bibb, William Wyatt

Places:

Madison County, AL

Types:

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Names:

Betts, Charles

Places:

Madison County, AL

Types:

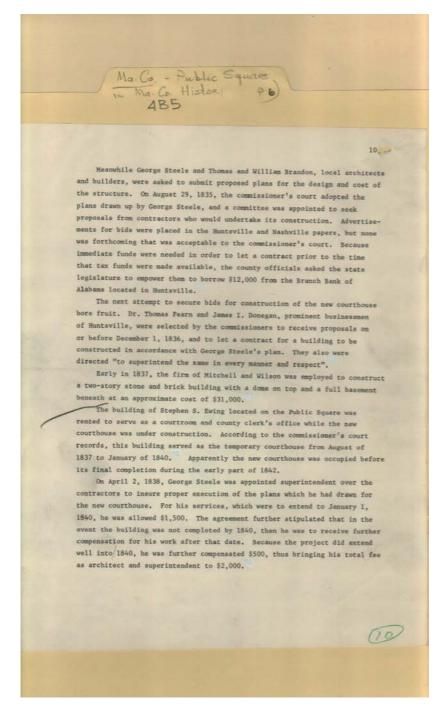
essay

Manning, James

Scruggs, Gross

Walker, Samuel

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries B, Box 5, Folder 6Madison County Public Square ArticleImage 24r04b05-06-000-0341ContentsIndexAbout



Names:

Bran Brandon, Thomas

Places:

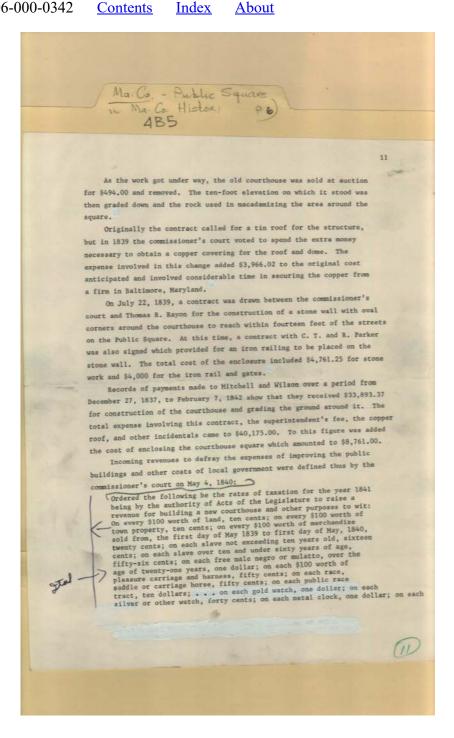
Madison County, AL

Types:

essay

Donegan, James I. Ewing, Stephen S. Fearn, Thomas, Dr. Mitchell & Wilson Steele, George

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries B, Box 5, Folder 6Madison County Public Square ArticleImage 25r04b05-06-000-0342ContentsIndexAbout



Names:

Mitchell & Wilson

Places:

Madison County, AL

Types:

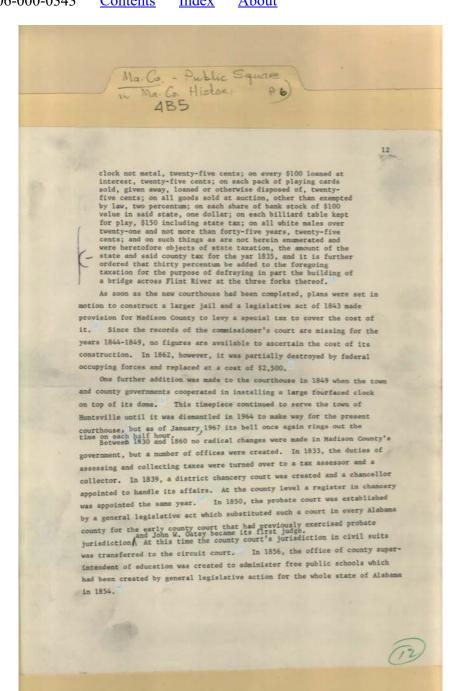
essay

Parker, C. T.

Parker, R.

Rayon, Thomas R.

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries B, Box 5, Folder 6Madison County Public Square ArticleImage 26r04b05-06-000-0343ContentsIndexAbout



Names:

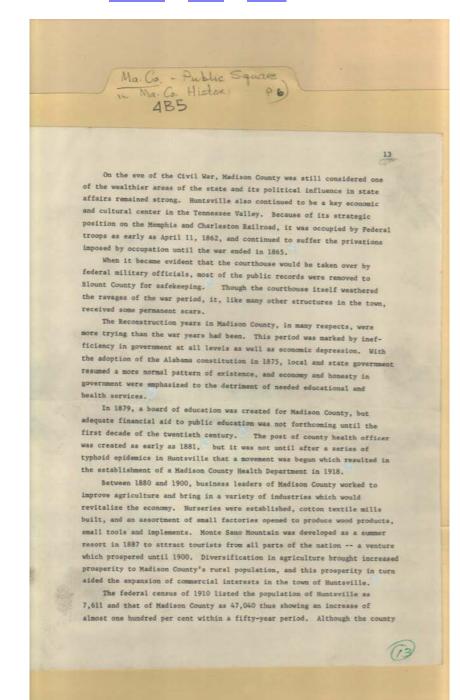
Oatey, John W.

Places:

Madison County, AL

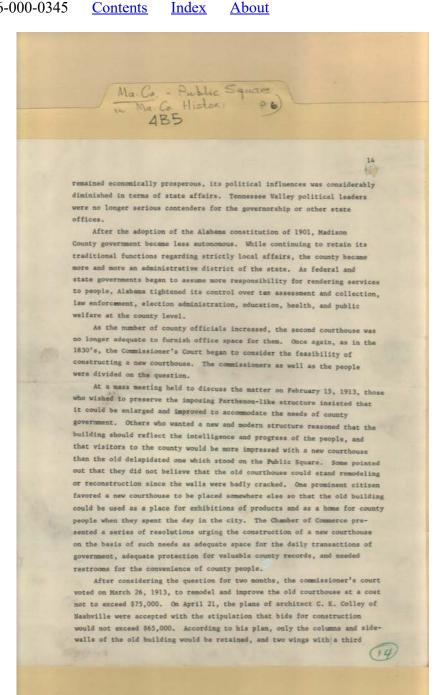
Types:

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Names:

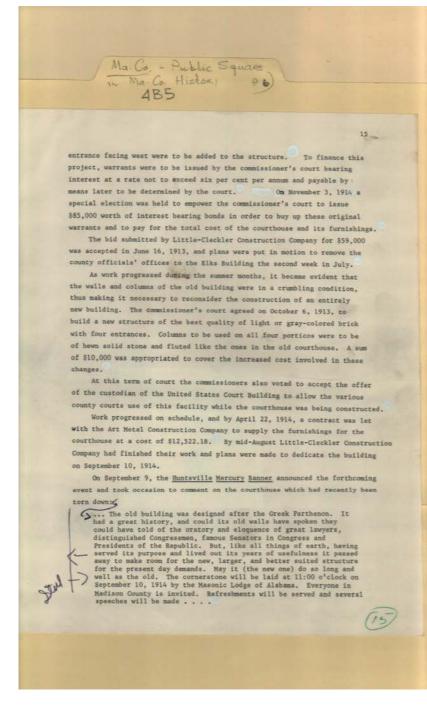
Colley, C. K.

Places:

Madison County, AL

Types:

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries B, Box 5, Folder 6Madison County Public Square ArticleImage 29r04b05-06-000-0346ContentsIndexAbout



Names:

Art Metal Construction Co.

Places:

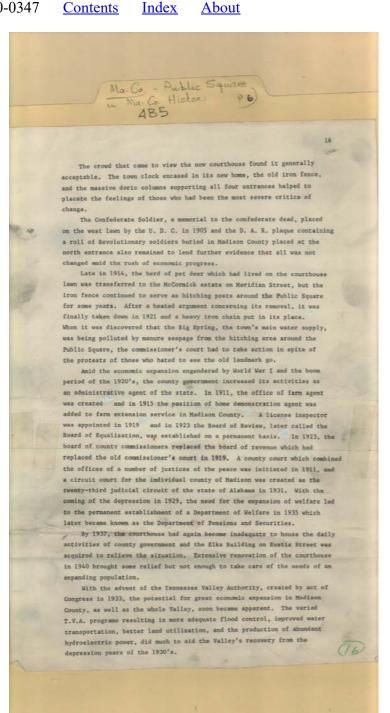
Madison County, AL

Types:

essay

Little-Cleckler Construction Co. Huntsville Mercury Banner

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries B, Box 5, Folder 6Madison County Public Square ArticleImage 30r04b05-06-000-0347ContentsIndexAbout



Names:

McCormick,

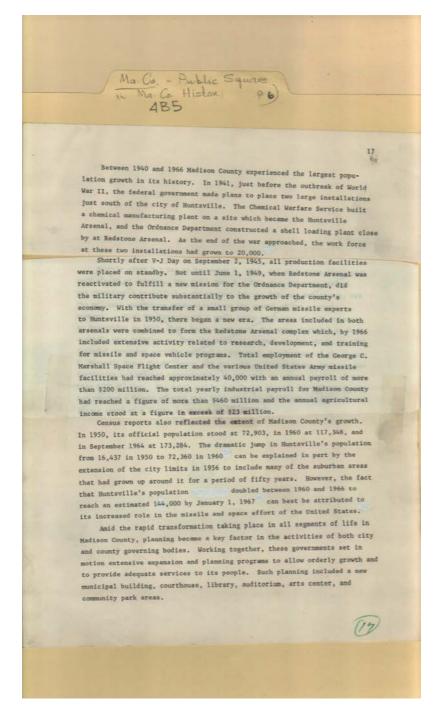
Places:

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T. V. A.

Types:

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Names:

Chemical Warfare Service

Places:

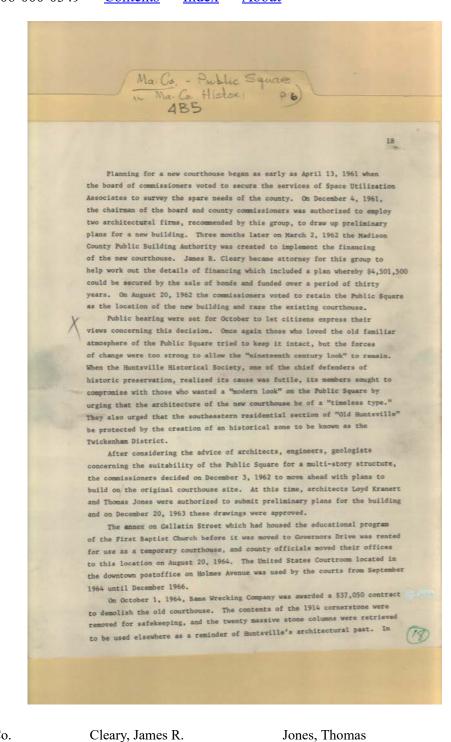
Madison County, AL

Types:

essay

George C. Marshall Space Flight Center Redstone Arsenal

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries B, Box 5, Folder 6Madison County Public Square ArticleImage 32r04b05-06-000-0349ContentsIndexAbout



Names:

Bama Wrecking Co.

Places:

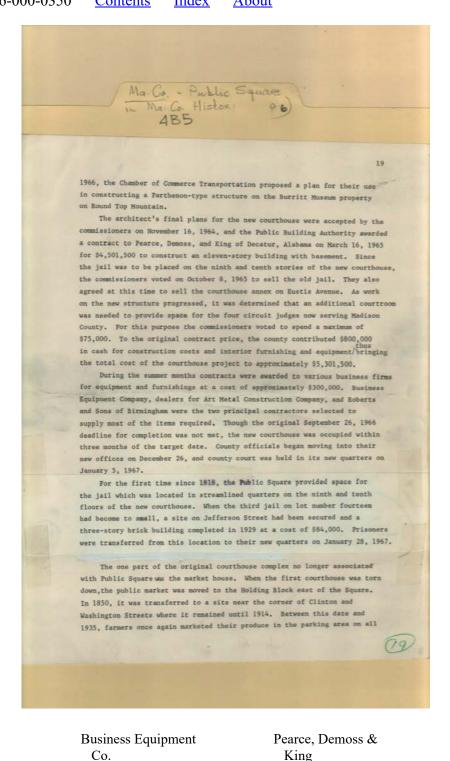
Madison County, AL

Types:

essay

Kranert, Lloyd

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries B, Box 5, Folder 6Madison County Public Square ArticleImage 33r04b05-06-000-0350ContentsIndexAbout



Roberts and Sons

Names:

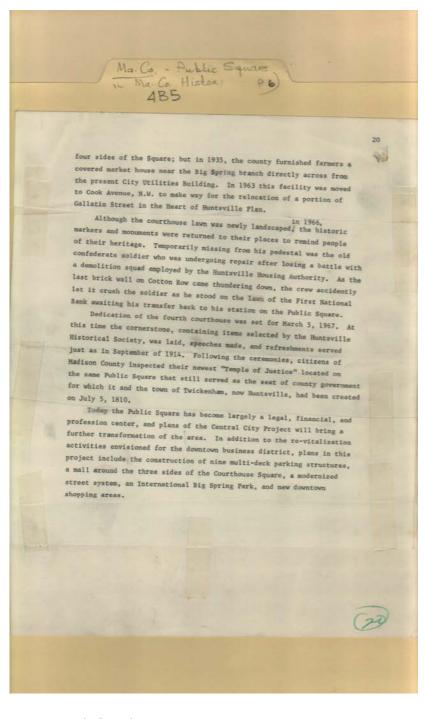
Art Metal Construction Co.

Places:

Madison County, AL

Types:

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Names:

Madison County Courthouse

Places:

Madison County, AL

Types:

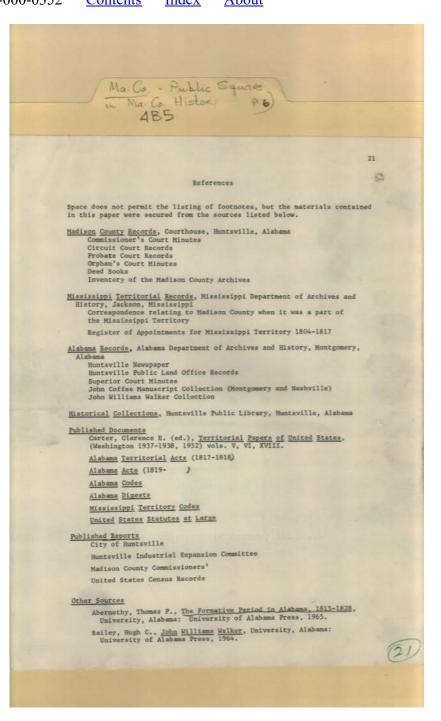
essay

Dates:

Mar 05, 1967

decicated

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries B, Box 5, Folder 6Madison County Public Square ArticleImage 35r04b05-06-000-0352ContentsIndexAbout



Names:

Abernethy, Thomas P.

Places:

Madison County, AL

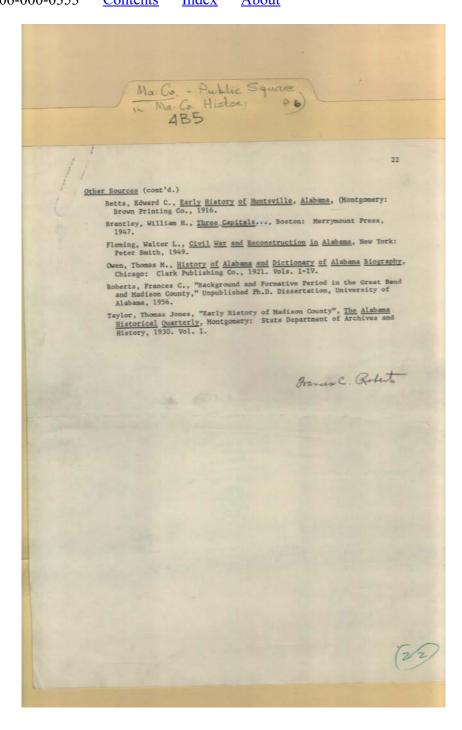
Types:

essay

Bailey, Hugh C.

Carter, Clarence E.

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Names:

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Roberts, Frances C. Taylor, Thomas Jones Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries B, Box 5, Folder 6Madison County Public Square ArticleImage 37r04b05-06-000-0354ContentsIndexAbout

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Names:

Grayson, David A. Humphrey, J. D.

Types:

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Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection

Preferred Citation: Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection, Archives and Special Collections, M. Louis Salmon Library, University of Alabama in Huntsville, Huntsville, AL.

Collection Scope and Content: The Collection of 114 Linear ft. includes a total of 156 Archival Boxes. The Frances Cabaniss Roberts collection covers the historical records of the Cabaniss Roberts family. This collection contains extensive correspondence records of the Cabaniss Roberts family circa 1830 to 1930.

Archives/Special Collections Access Restrictions: None

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