No one has ever seen a picture of Madison County's first courthouse, according to Record.

But in his research, he ran across minutes from a Board of Commissioners' meeting in the 1830's that devoted two to three pages to a detailed description of the renovation of that first struc-

Younger — There is a duty upon the individual citizen to protect himself from loss of property through insurance and other safeguards, Younger said.

"For example, a man parks his car on the street and leaves the keys in. Someone steals his automobile. Are we to replace the car? The victim himself was negligent in the crime having been committed.

"Are we going to place the state and society in a position as insurer against the loss by individuals of his property?

"I think it another step in the direction of a welfare state. Rather than being concerned with this problem, we ought to exert more effort in the direction of prevention and punishment."

Also, he said, such a program undoubtedly would spur a rash of false claims in which a person falsely reported the loss of property, or hired an accomplice to "rob" him.

Circuit Judge David Archer—Judge Archer said his first impression is one of opposition until he could study the plan.

But he said he is in favor of requiring state, county or city employes of law enforcement officers to carry compulsory insurance on the officers' lives, so that when one dies in the line of duty his family will have some means of support.

Circuit Judge Elbert H. Parsons — He reserved comment, explaining he is not familiar with the proposal.

County Judge Thomas McDonald — While stating that he would like to see innocent victims helped, Judge McDonald also commented:

"How far are we going to go? If we take care of the murder victim's wife, what are we to do with the victims of highway killers? The state can't be all things to all men."

He said that while there would be some deserving cases, a blanket law applying to everybody would be impractical.

Family Court Judge John W. Green — He stated that he has not studied the proposal "but

NOTES
September 16, 1996
Harvie P. Jones, FAIA, Architect

1. **Original architect's rendering of the proposed 1913 Madison County, Alabama Courthouse.** View of south facade (Confederate Memorial Statue was on the southwest corner of the Square). Buildings shown at right (beyond) on the east end of the north side of the Square exist in 1996, much altered. Buildings to the left on the west side of the Square were demolished in the early 1960's "urban renewal" federal program.

2. The decorative stamped-metal work in the tympanum of the portico was apparently never installed. The Florida State Capitol in Tallahassee has similar decoration in stamped metal at its tympanum.

3. This courthouse was demolished by the County Commission in c.1964 and the present black aluminum and glass courthouse was erected in its place.

4. Signature - C. K. ~~Calley~~ Colley
   Architect
   Nashville, Tenn.
   No date is apparent, but is probably 1912 or 1913.

5. This rendering was found in a dirt crawl-space on about September 10, 1996 by workmen restoring the 1906 Freeman House by the Central Presbyterian Church at 205 Lincoln Street. Mrs. Carol Ann Samples of the Church happened to be there and recognized what is pictured and saved the rendering from the trash.

LLEY, CLARENCE K. Nashville 1899-1956

Clarence K. Colley was born February 21, 1869, in Wilson County. opened his architectural office in 1899 in Nashville and in 1909 ook in J.H. COLLEY. He advertised as COLLEY and COMPANY from 1922-928 and was noted for his many apartment buildings. He died at age in Nashville on July 8, 1956.
ch. Soc. of Archts. Monthly Bulletin, September, 1956; SRA BAEE #1 820A).

LEY and COMPANY Nashville 1922-1928

CLARENCE K. COLLEY.

LEY, J. HOMER Nashville 1909, 1914-1915

J. Homer Colley shared the same address with CLARENCE K. COLLEY 909.

LEY, SARA WARD- Nashville

Sara Ward-Conley (plate 44) was the first woman architect of Ten-ee. Her singular work was the Women's Building at the Tennessee ennial Exhibition in Nashville of 1897 (plate 45). She was born ashville. She studied art under Bonguereau, F.A. Bridgeman, and ari. She exhibited a painting, "Portrait of Elia" (#85), in the Arts Building at the Tennessee Centennial. Her building in a nial Revival style measured 65 x 165 feet, and its interior was most photographed of any other at the exposition. The building precedented, as were many others, by the Greek Revival monuments known to people of Middle Tennessee. The Women's Building was base ndrew Jackson's Hermitage just a few miles away but was "enlarged o its Colonial style are added suggestions of the Greek school of tecture." Her work also brought as much publicity nationally as ther building due to her participation in its design and erection. interesting to note that she was allowed the same $250 for the as every other architect participating in the exposition. She actually practiced as an architect but advertised as an artist. Arts Department...; Justi, p. 350; Prousnitzer.

JAMES BARTHOLOMEW Memphis 1887-1909

ames B. Cook (plate 46) was born in London, England, in 1826. He ducated at King's College, London, and at the age of sixteen entere College, near London, where he studied for the profession of ture and civil

Nashville Tennessean
Roll #97 - July 9, 1956 P. 18

Eight States

ulations

Candidate

...ists are writing ...ntests in which there ...n overturn. It merely ...surveys indicate their ...es of winning seats ...opposition lie in the 11

...s, both parties appar... easing their campaign ... on the belief that ...Eisenhower will be a ...-a second term. ...ns expect the Presi... on the ticket to help ... GOP candidates in ...ear. Democrats seem ...isenhower's popularity ... sufficiently so they ...e their present 49-47 ...r the GOP even if ...is re-elected. ...ork Republicans may ...n heavily on Eisen... ularity despite a heavy ...pirants for the GOP ...omination there. The ...inal word is that for... ...oosa E. Dewey won't

...ts Chance

...s in Kentucky were ... Saturday's announce... Sen. John Sherman ...ambassador to India. ...run. Cooper is given ...ance to beat former ...ce Wetherby for the ...ly held by Albert W. ...n Thruston Morton is ...emocratic Sen. Earle

...s are going all out in ...ern Democratic Sen. ...posed by former Sec... Interior Douglas McKay. ...Republicans think they ...ocratic Sen. Alben ...considered his previ... to quit. ... Virginia, a reorganiza... a Byrd has given the ...ublican hopes of defeat... Gov. William C. ...Democratic Sen. Clar... ...in the race to fill ...left by the late Demo... Harry M. Kilgore.

...Louisiana ...s some believe. One

Nation's Weather Forecast

—AP Wirephoto.

Warm and humid weather is expected to continue today through east coast. It will be cooler in Great Lakes and upper Ohio Valley, and very warm in West and northern Plains. Rain is expected in Northeast, Great Lakes, most of southland, Mississippi Valley, lower Ohio Valley, and mountains of Oregon and Washington.

Nation's Temperature, Rainfall

WASHINGTON —(AP)— Weather bureau reports of temperature and rainfall for the 24 hours ending 7 p.m. yesterday:

	High	Low	Prec.
Abilene	94	66	.03
Amarillo	91	64	
Asheville	81	66	1.35
Atlanta	87	68	
Atlantic City	84	71	.48
Birmingham	94	71	.86
Bismarck	83	57	
Boise	93	63	
Boston	83	66	.83
Buffalo	83	64	.84
Burlington	83	61	.44
Cape Hatteras	86	73	.13
Charlotte	94	67	.46
Chattanooga	93	67	.63
Chicago	83	67	
Cincinnati	78	58	1.48
Cleveland	83	62	.63
Columbus	85	62	
Dallas	100	74	
Denver	94	62	
Des Moines	93	66	.13
Detroit	83	62	.24
Duluth	78	52	
Fresno	96	62	
Galveston	88	76	
Huntington	88	62	
Jacksonville	94	72	
Jacksonville	94	72	.10
Kansas City	96	68	
Key West	90	80	.14
Knoxville	94	68	
Little Rock	96	72	
Los Angeles	84	66	
Louisville	94	68	
Memphis	96	72	
Meridian	94	72	
Miami	90	78	
Milwaukee	83	62	
Minneapolis-St. Paul	83	58	
Mobile	94	72	
Montgomery	94	72	
Montreal	78	58	
New Orleans	94	74	
New York	83	68	
Norfolk	94	72	
Oklahoma	96	72	
Omaha	94	68	
Philadelphia	83	68	
Portland, Maine	78	58	
Richmond	94	68	
St. Louis	94	68	
San Antonio	96	74	
San Francisco	66	54	
Savannah	94	72	
Seattle	78	54	
Tampa	94	74	
Washington	94	72	
Wilmington	94	72	

'Loafer' Accused Of $50 Robbery

An Eighth Avenue service station attendant told police last night a man who hung around the station robbed him of $50 after threatening the victim with his own knife.

Perry B. Shannon, about 40, attendant at the Texaco oil station, 911 Eighth ave. S., said the bandit, a Negro, had been hanging around the station while the day man was still on duty. I thought he was a friend.

The robbery occurred about 9:30 p.m. when Shannon went into a rear room after having his hands bandaged. Knife and shoulder on the

C. K. Colley Dies Of Heart Ailment

Architect Designed Several of Nashville's Major Apartments

Clarence K. Colley, 67, retired apartment architect of 1617 Sixteenth ave. S., died yesterday of a heart ailment at his home after an illness of two years.

Funeral arrangements were incomplete last night. The body is at Finley Dorris & Charlton funeral home, 2423 West End ave.

Mr. Colley, who had practiced architecture in Nashville since 1900, participated in the design of several major apartment buildings and public school buildings here. He was head of the C. K. Colley & Son architecture firm for 56 years.

A native of Wilson county, Mr. Colley came to Nashville when he was 16. He was first employed in the firm of Col. William Smith, the man who drew up the first plans for the Parthenon in Centennial park.

Mr. Colley was an active member of the Hillsboro Presbyterian church, and at one time was an elder.

Survivers are his widow, Mrs. Mary C. Colley; one son, William C. Colley, Nashville; one daughter, Mrs. John M. Goodelock, Birmingham; one brother, William H. Colley, Nashville, and two grandchildren, Lt. William C. Colley Jr., Fort Campbell, Ky., and Miss Elinor F. Colley, Nashville.

Former Nashvillian Stabs Self to Death

A former Nashvillian and graduate of Vanderbilt school of engineering stabbed himself to death Saturday night while sitting with his family at the dinner table in his Memphis home.

Karl Anderson Hart, 58, prominent [illegible] plumbing [illegible] pronounced [illegible] in the chest [illegible] presence of his wife and daughter.

Mrs. Hart told the coroner's jury [illegible] Hart had been [illegible] He was apparently in [illegible] Hart had gotten up from [illegible]

Out of Town Deaths

Death Notices

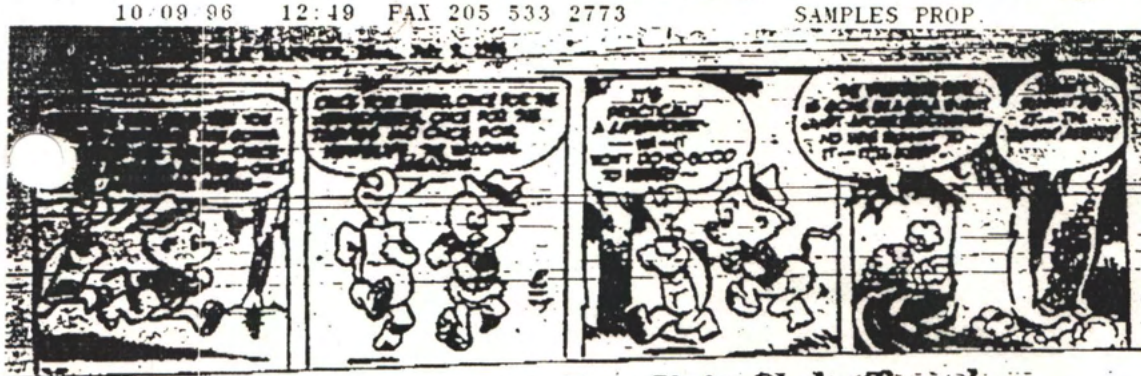
COLLEY—Sunday afternoon, July 8, 1956, at 3 o'clock at his residence, 1617 16th Ave., South, Clarence K. Colley. Survived by his wife, Mrs. Mary C. Colley; son, Miss Elinor Colley; granddaughter, Lt. William C. Colley Jr., U. S. Army; sister, Mrs. John M. Goodelock, Birmingham; brother, William H. Colley, Nashville. Remains are at the apartments of Finley Dorris & Charlton Co., West End at Twentieth ave. Arrangements will be announced later. Friends may call at Charlton Co.

WILSON—Saturday afternoon, July 7, 1956, at [illegible] Forrest Wilson, husband of [illegible] Mrs. Virginia [illegible] of Lewisville, [illegible] Mrs. W. Cook, Nashville, Tenn., Margaret Kinnerton, Jacksonville, Fla., and Claire [illegible] Lebanon; 11 grandchildren, [illegible] great-grandchildren. Funeral will be Tuesday at 2:30 p.m. in Campbellsville Funeral Home. Brief graveside [illegible] Rev. Charles E. Parker, [illegible] Pallbearers: Stanley Chaffin, Quarterly Conference Lebanon Cemetery. Arrangements by Campbellsville Funeral Home.

WILLS—Sunday afternoon, July 8, 1956, at 5 local [illegible] Wills, husband of [illegible] Survived by wife, Mrs. Mary Frost Wills, 3 brothers and 1 sister. Services at [illegible] Chapel. Rev. [illegible] Cemetery. Pallbearers: [illegible] Active pallbearers to be announced.

[illegible] Sunday afternoon, July 8, 1956, at [illegible] Survived by wife, Mrs. [illegible] Services at [illegible] Chapel. Rev. [illegible] Cemetery. Pallbearers: [illegible] Active pallbearers to be announced.

July 9, 1956



"And he said I have my shirts laundered at Norwood's, just the way I like them. No Starch, Medium Starch, Light Starch and Heavy Starch.

OVER 25 YEARS OF DEPENDA
NORWOOD LAUNDRY &
1601 CHURCH STREET

'Operation Skywatch' Slated For Civic Clubs Tuesday

Nashville's Civitan Club along [illegible] service clubs in the city will [illegible] ground against possible [illegible] any attacks from some foreign [illegible] at the meeting which will be held at the Andrew Jackson Hotel at [illegible]

Featured speaker at the event will be Brigadier General [illegible] W. Bowman, [illegible] Division, [illegible] Albuquerque, New [illegible]

General Bowman, [illegible] Harriman, Tenn., [illegible] the GOC, [illegible] date, and present [illegible] for civilian [illegible] Continental Air [illegible]

The GOC has [illegible] or the spotter system [illegible] land during World War [illegible] World War II. The [illegible] eral is to aid in the [illegible] the Continental [illegible]

General Bowman [illegible] at the Civitan [illegible] one, including [illegible] children are needed [illegible] servation towers [illegible] ville and the entire [illegible]

K. R. Mace, chairman of the [illegible] committee of the Civitan [illegible] has urged that all members of various clubs throughout Nashville have representatives present [illegible]

General Bowman was graduated from West Point in the class of 1931 and has held his present position as Commander, 34th Air Division, since July of 1953.

BRIG. GEN. W. W. BOWMAN

STOMACH GAS
May Tax HEART

Gas in the stomach forms pressure, causes "gassy vertebra" that [illegible] with each deep breath; so check with your doctor if worried about your heart. If it's gas, remember: SYS-TONE is helping victims of stomach gas all over Nashville. [illegible] with meals Sys-Tone works WITH YOUR FOOD. Expels gas quickly! Contains Iron to enrich [illegible], anemic blood; also vitamin B-1 for upset nerves. Many gas-filled, nervous, worried people [illegible] like new. So don't go on suffering. Get Sys-Tone—Hale's Drug Stores. Sold also by all Leading druggists in Nashville and vicinity.

FOR BOTH
$39.50
Pay $1 Weekly

NO DOWN PAYMENT
UNITED [illegible] 24 HR CAPE

Clarence Colley, Architect, Dies, Rites Pending

Funeral arrangements were pending today for Clarence K. Colley, 87, of the architectural firm of C. K. Colley and Son.

Mr. Colley died at 5 p.m. (DST) Sunday at his residence, 1617 Sixteenth Ave. South, after an extended illness.

The body is at Finley Dorris and Charlton funeral home.

Mr. Colley had been active in the firm until about two years ago.

He established the firm around 1908. Owner of Starling Court, he had been architect on several other apartment projects, including the Washington, Jefferson, Robert E. Lee, and Wellington Arms apartments. City schools for which his firm acted as architect include Jones Elementary, Baxter Junior and Lockeland Elementary.

Mr. Colley was born near Lebanon, a son of the late Seth and Eldelia Smith Colley.

He came to Nashville at the age of 18. He was a member of the Hillsboro Presbyterian Church.

Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Mary C. Colley, Nashville; a son, William C. Colley, Nashville; a sister, Mrs. John M. Goodelack, Birmingham; a brother, William Hubert Colley, Nashville; a granddaughter, Miss Elinor F. Colley, Nashville, and a grandson, Lt. William C. Colley, Jr., U. S. Army, Ft. Campbell.

Big Haul

Hartford, Conn.—(UP)—Whoever stole Donald Brennan's truck got more than he bargained for. Brennan said it contained a stove, refrigerator, washing machine and television set.

THRIFT PAYS MORE
AT SECURITY FEDERAL

"Make your next p
WINS
SAYS B
WINS
TASTES

JONES & HERRIN

Architecture/Interior Design

September 16, 1996

Ms. Carol Ann Samples
Samples Properties
655 Gallatin Street, S.W.
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Dear Carol Ann:

1. A. On Friday, September 13, David Robb, past Director of the Huntsville Museum of Art, looked carefully at the architect's rendering of the proposed 1913 Madison County (AL) Courthouse that you discovered in the 1907 Freeman House crawl space. He believes it can be professionally cleaned and stabilized for between $400 - $500. He will give me the address of a firm in Nashville who can do this.

B. If it is desired to eliminate the minor water stains ("tide-marks") and such blemishes the cost would be more. In my opinion this degree of refinement would not be needed.

C. The colors are faded of course, but I also am not bothered by this. See Item 4-C.

D. David notes that the paper is not acid-free (brown substrate). The above treatment would not correct this. See Item 4-C.

E. If it is decided to clean and stabilize the rendering in Nashville as opposed to Washington D.C. (where numerous paper conservators are located) the rendering could be delivered by car, saving a considerable packing and shipping cost.

2. A. Catherine Gilliam, who compiled much of James Record's history of Madison County government, finds no Gilbert or Freeman in the lists of county officials for circa 1910-20. Perhaps one of the boarders in the Freeman House brought the rendering there and left it when he moved out.

B. Catherine believes there is a source of perhaps up to $1,000 to professionally clean, stabilize and mount the rendering. This source is the Burwell Foundation which is set up for such projects "to benefit the public good". It would probably be necessary that the grant not go to the Central Presbyterian Church (which is not "public" by legal requirements). If the Church decides to give the original (keeping prints for sale to benefit the Church) to a public body such as the Library Heritage Room, then the grant procurement would probably not be a problem.

Please contact Catherine about this. Telephone 536-8990, 1708 Red Oak Road, 35801.

C. Catherine has a researcher at the Chamber of Commerce contacting Nashville to check old City Directories to try to discover more about C. K. Calley, Architect, of Nashville, whose name is on the rendering.

104 Jefferson Street • Huntsville, Alabama 35801 • 205/539-0764 • Fax 205/534-2289

3. A. The view of the rendering is of the south facade, looking north. The statue of the Confederate soldier is at the front left at the southwest corner of the Square. The three-story building in the right background is at the east end of the north side of the Square and still exists, much modified.

The buildings to the left, at the west side of the Square, were demolished in the 1960's "urban renewal".

B. The identification at the lower left of the rendering reads:

C. K. Calley
Architect
Nashville, Tenn.

No date is apparent, but presumably it is circa 1912.

4. A. I will keep the rendering in my office in a low-light location (to help preserve it) until you decide what procedures to take.

B. As soon as it is cleaned and stabilized, the rendering should be professionally photographed with a large-format camera, in both color and black/white. The black/white copy is needed because color film is unstable and won't last for very many years.

C. To help preserve the ink, water-color, and acid-paper of the rendering it is IMPORTANT that the original be kept in a dark, dry place. The original SHOULD NOT be on display in the light, and in particular should not be displayed under fluorescent light, whose ultra-violet rays are just like sunlight in its deteriorating effects. Ironically, its storage in a dark crawl space may have helped to preserve the rendering except for moisture effect.

Good-quality reproductions should be used for display. The original should be kept in proper archival storage in order to preserve it as long as possible.

5. This is a terrific find for the history of Huntsville and Madison County you have made. Many people would have trashed this dirty old piece of cardboard without a thought. I'm thankful you were at the 1907 Freeman House that morning to recognize its importance to the city's history.

Thanks!

Harvie P. Jones, FAIA
HPJ/tm

copy: Ms. Catherine Gilliam
Mr. David Robb
HJ

JONES & HERRIN

Architecture/Interior Design

September 24, 1996

Ms. Carol Ann Samples
Samples Properties
655 Gallatin Street, S.W.
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Re: 1913 Court House Rendering

Dear Carol Ann:

1. Attached is information on the paper conservator in Nashville, per information by David Robb. I talked to Ms. Young and she would be glad to look at the 1913 rendering and advise on it. Can you (or someone) take it to her studio?

2. At the Freeman House, the door-closers are all too stiff. They can be loosened with an Allen-wrench at the adjustment screw on the closer.

   It would help to paint the electric meter-boxes on the south exterior wall the same color as the siding.

   The kitchen back steps could be painted dark green like the brick and the rails the siding color (semi-gloss paint).

   The condensers should be painted the dark green brick color, except for the labels.

3. The house has come out beautifully, and you and all your helpers are to be complimented!

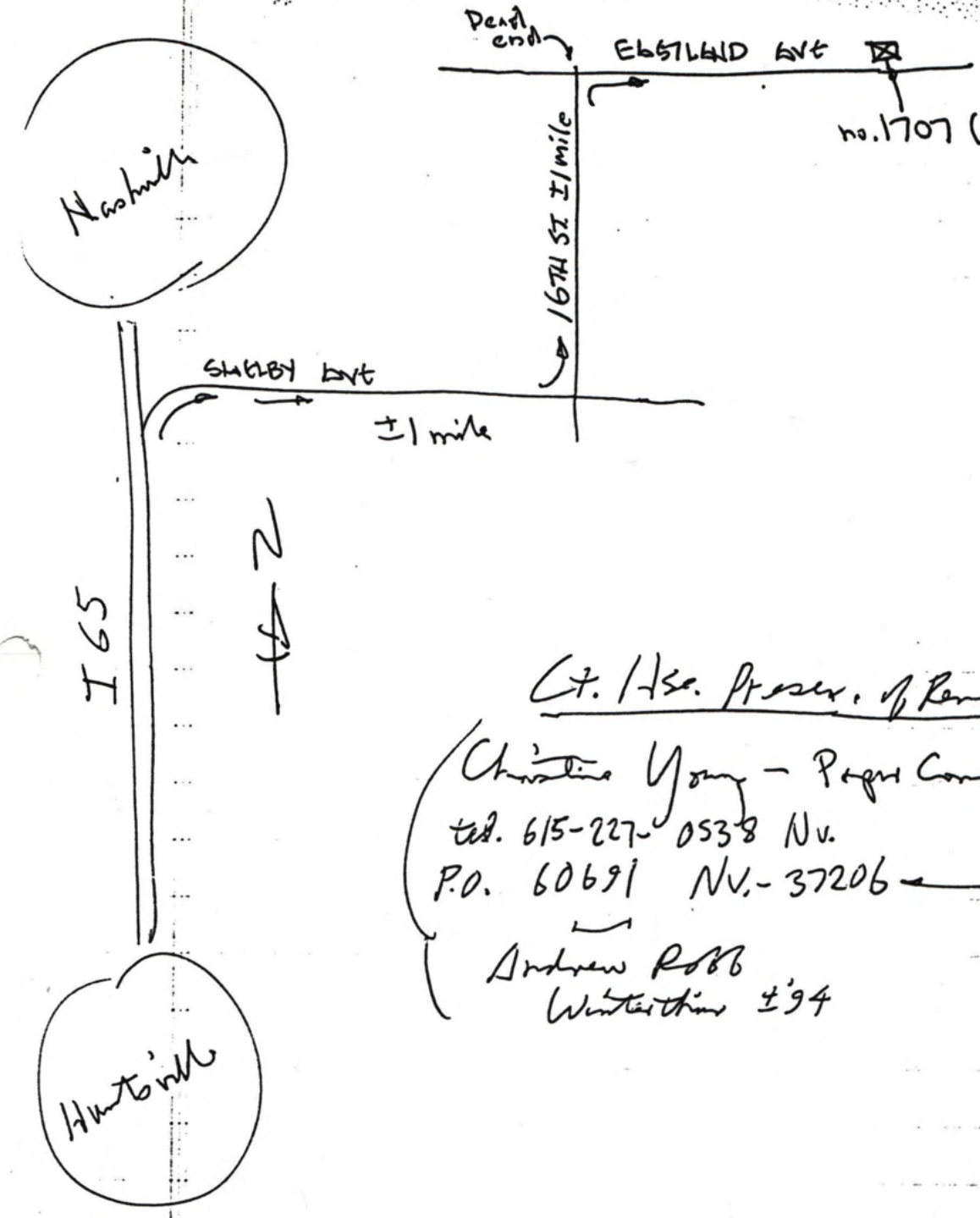
Best wishes!

Harvie P. Jones, FAIA
HPJ/tm

copy: HJ

attachments

104 Jefferson Street • Huntsville, Alabama 35801 • 205/539-0764 • Fax 205/534-2289



Ct. Hse. Preser. of Rendering:

Christine Young – Paper Conservator. { trained at Winterthur Mus.
tel. 615-227-0538 Nv.
P.O. 60691 NV.-37206 — 1707 Eastland Ave

Andrew Robb
Winterthur ±'94

JONES & HERRIN

Architecture/Interior Design

Oct 7 '96

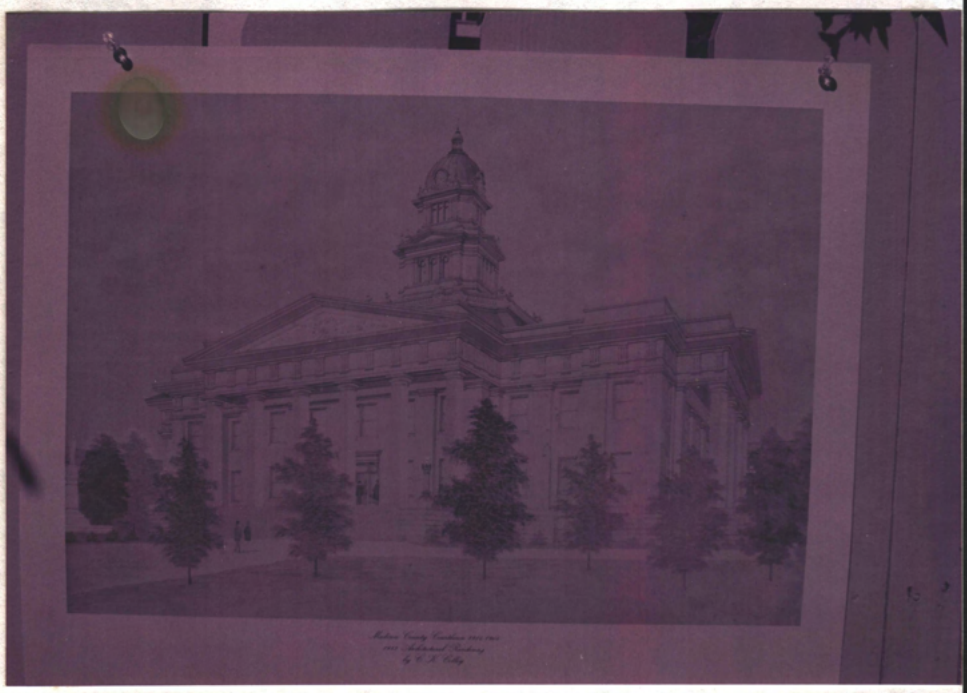
Harvie P. Jones, FAIA

Mrs. Carol Dunn Samples
re Ct. Hse rendering
Dear Carol Dunn — at a
committee meeting of the
Hist. Fndn. on Sat. I
mentioned the Nashville arch.
& Ira Jones reported that
he KNEW him & that his
father had bought a lot from
him. He knows where
the arch.'s house is. He
says it is spelled "COLLEY"
not "Colley". I asked Ira
to write down all he
knows & get it to us.

Harvie

104 Jefferson Street
Huntsville, Alabama 35801
Telephone 205/539-0764
Fax 205/534-2289

CHJ



Restored 1913 Rendering (lithograph) - 1997

C.K. Colley, Arch's rendering

Stains & dirt removed, re-backed w/ rag-board.

ARCHITECTURAL COLLECTION OF HARVIE P. JONES, F.A.I.A.

SERIES 4---PHOTOGRAPH NOTEBOOKS

BOOK 58

1913 Courthouse, Madison County

**1994 Musgrove Res.,
Florence, AL**

Schiffman Bldg. c 1905

**1848 Siloam Baptist Church,
Marion, AL**

c 1889 Mayhew Cottage 506 Eustis

**Oldfield Towry House,
Hazel Green**

1906 Freeman Hse., 205 Lincoln

1811 Log Hse., Childress

See p. 12 (C.K. Gray)

Author? Dr. Frances Roberts
Publication? Booklet for 1967 Ct. H. Dedic

The public square in Madison County History.

by Dr. Frances Roberts + research by James Record (A.L.)

The County of Madison was created by proclamation of Governor Robert Williams of the Mississippi Territory on December 13, 1808, but it was not until nearly three years later that the Public Square in Huntsville became the actual seat of justice for Madison County. During this intervening period the courts were created, officers appointed, fee simple land titles established through the public sale of federal lands, and the necessary legislation passed to establish a permanent county seat.

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 appointed 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 justices of the peace.

Further steps of organization were taken on February [illegible], 1809, when the territorial legislature extended the laws of the United States and those of the Mississippi 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 Nashville, clerk of the circuit court, and William Winston of Madison County, clerk of the county court.

The resignation of Governor Williams on March 3, followed by an interim of four months before David Holmes succeeded to this office, probably slowed down the completion 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 Winston of Madison County and William Dickson of Nashville in completing the roster of Madison County officials.

Acting on recommendations submitted by these men, William Dickson, Edward Ward, and Peter Perkins of Nashville, Tennessee, and LeRoy Pope and Thomas Bibb 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 appointment in March, was to act as clerk for the initial term of the Orphan'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, laying out of roads, licensing of ministers, and enrolling of lawyers. It also served to supplement the work of the justices of the peace until a formal criminal court could be set up.

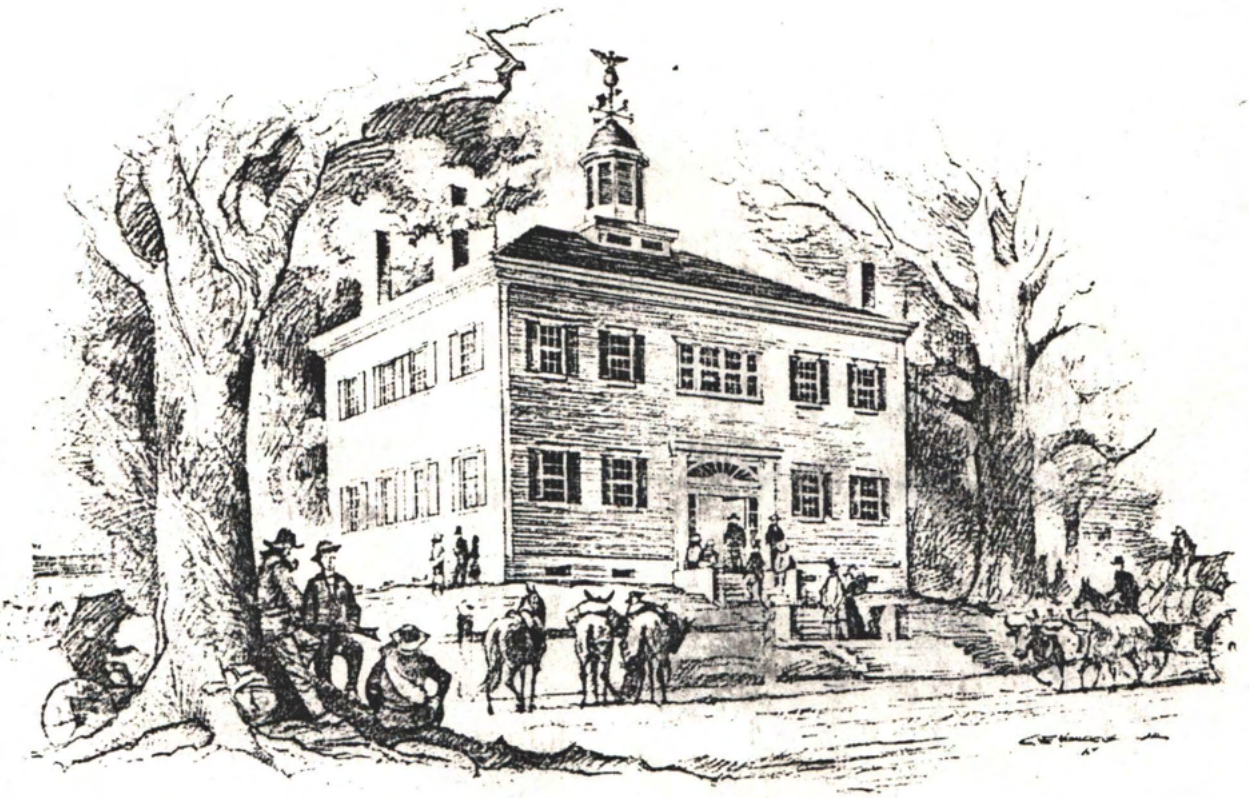
Before a superior court with criminal jurisdiction for Madison County could be established, special congressional action was necessary to create an additional federal judgeship for the Mississippi Territory. A law for this purpose, as well as to extend the right of suffrage to Madison's citizens, was approved on March 2, 1810. The guiding influence of the Georgia group who settled in Madison County was manifested in the appointment of the first superior court judge. Obadiah Jones of Georgia, recommended to the President by the Georgia delegation in Congress, was chosen in preference to Marmaduke Williams of Madison County, recommended by his brother, Robert Williams, former governor of the Mississippi Territory.

The first term of the superior court of law and equity convened on October 1, 1810, with Judge Jones presiding, Peter Perkins serving as clerk, and Louis Winston as Attorney General. 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, Gabriel Moore, James Rogers, Louis Winston, Marmaduke Williams, and John W. Walker produced their commissions and were authorized to practice law.

Sheriff Stephen Neal, executive officer of the county, served the court by summoning jurors, executing warrants and writs, presenting offenders to 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 settlements throughout the county, John Grayson, John Kirksley, William Lanier, Abraham Perkins, John Martin, and George Dilworth were appointed justices of the peace and David 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 Bennett Wood, treasurer.

To provide for defense, the Seventh Regiment was created as Madison County's unit of the Mississippi territorial militia and Colonel Peter Perkins was appointed commander of the group on January 4, 1810. During the following summer all the able bodied men 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 would have a tendency to quiet some of the discontent



1811-1837

Totally conjectural, entry not per period
LH

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 abolished 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 Scruggs, Charles Betts, and Samuel Walker were elected to serve as members of the commissioner's court for a one-year term. In 1827, the commissioners' 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, justice of the peace, notary public, circuit solicitor, sheriff, coroner, constable, tax assessor and collector, treasurer, county auctioneer, road appor-tioner 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 forty-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 expanding 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 Huntsville.

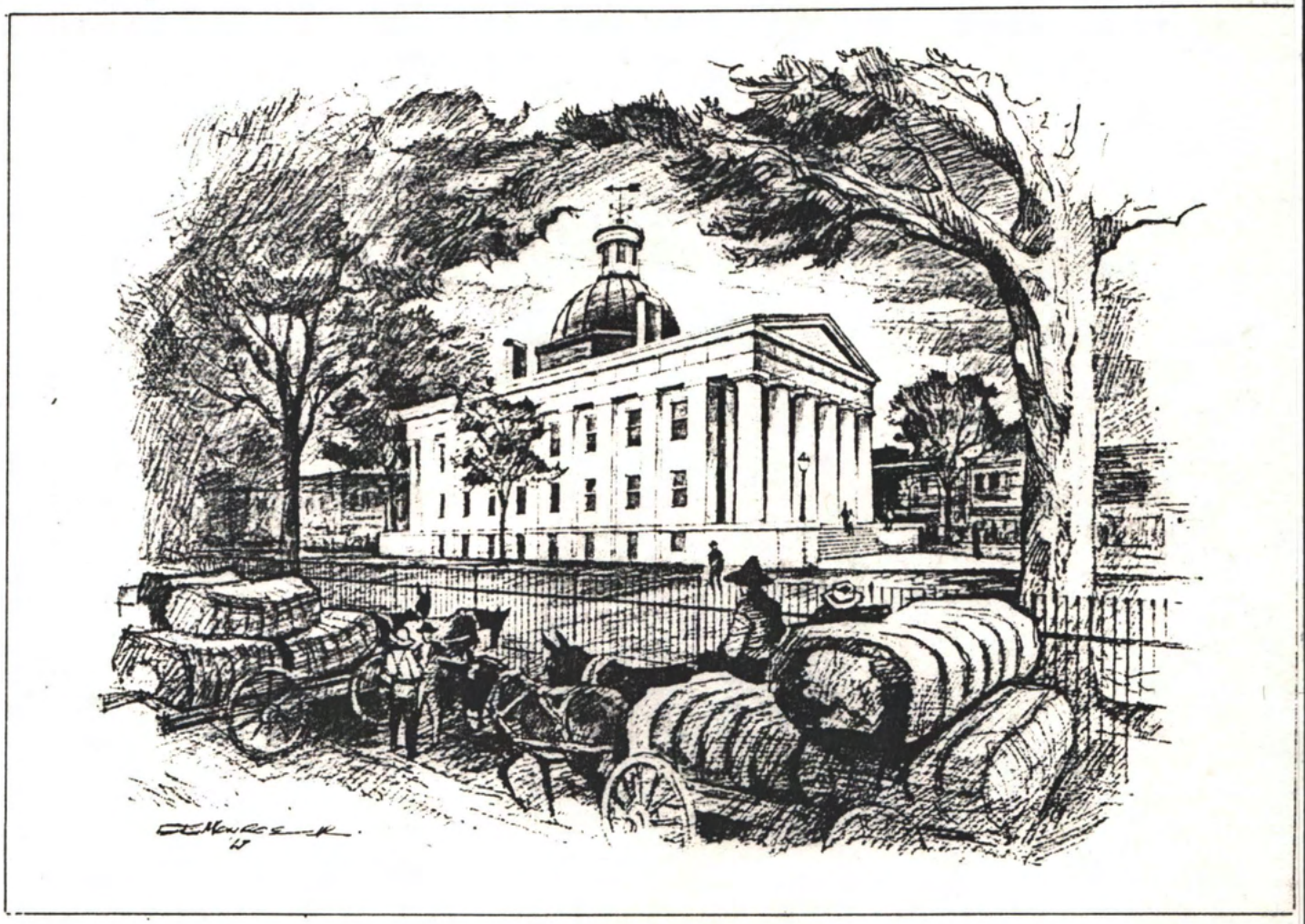
Meanwhile George Steele and Thomas and William Brandon, local architects and builders, were asked to submit proposed plans for the design and cost of the structure. On August 29, 1835, the commissioner's court adopted the plans drawn up by George Steele, and a committee was appointed to seek proposals 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 I. 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



1840-1913

.840, he was further compensated $500, thus bringing his total fee as architect and superintendent to $2,000.

As the work got under way, the old courthouse was sold at auction for $494.00 and removed. The ten-foot elevation on which it stood was then graded down and the rock used in macadamizing the area around the square.

Originally the contract called for a tin roof for the structure, but in 1839 the commissioner's court voted to spend the extra money necessary to obtain a copper covering for the roof and dome. The expense involved in this change added $3,966.02 to the original cost anticipated and involved considerable time in securing the copper from a firm in Baltimore, Maryland.

On July 22, 1839, a contract was drawn between the commissioner's court and Thomas R. Rayon for the construction of a stone wall with oval corners around the courthouse to reach within fourteen feet of the streets on the Public Square. At this time, a contract with C. T. and R. Parker was also signed which provided for an iron railing to be placed on the stone wall. The total cost of the enclosure included $4,761.25 for stone work and $4,000 for the iron rail and gates.

Records of payments made to Mitchell and Wilson over a period from December 27, 1837, to February 7, 1842, show that they received $33,893.37 for construction of the courthouse and grading the ground around it. The total expense involving this contract, the superintendent's fee, the copper roof, and other incidentals came to $40,175.00. To this figure was added the cost of enclosing the courthouse square which amounted to $8,761.00.

Incoming revenues to defray the expenses of improving the public buildings and other costs of local government were defined thus by the commissioner's court on May 4, 1840: *Ordered the following be the rates of taxation for the year 1841 being by the authority of Acts of the Legislature to raise a revenue for building a new courthouse and other purposes to wit: On every $100 worth of land, ten cents; on every $100 worth of town property, ten cents; on every $100 worth of merchandize sold from, the first day of May 1839 to first day of May, 1840, twenty cents; on each slave not exceeding ten years old, sixteen cents; on each slave over ten and under sixty years of age, fifty six cents; on each free male negro or mulatto, over the age of twenty-one years, one dollar; on each $100 worth of pleasure carriage and harness, fifty cents; on each race, saddle or carriage horse, fifty cents; on each public race tract, ten dollars; . . . on each gold watch, one dollar; on each silver or other watch, forty cents; on each metal clock, one dollar; on each clock not metal, twenty-five cents; on every $100 loaned at interest, twenty-five cents; on each pack of playing cards sold, given away, loaned or otherwise disposed of, twenty-five cents; on all goods sold at auction, other than exempted by law, two percentum; on each share of bank stock of $100 value in said state, one dollar; on each billiard table kept for play, $150 including state tax; on all white males over twenty-one and not more than forty-five years, twenty-five cents; and on such things as are not herein enumerated and were heretofore objects of state taxation, the amount of the state and said county tax for the year 1835, and it is further ordered that thirty percentum be added to the foregoing taxation for the purpose of defraying in part the building of a bridge across Flint River at the three forks thereof.*

As soon as the new courthouse had been completed, plans were set in motion to construct a larger jail, and a legislative act of 1843 made provision for Madison County to levy a special tax to cover the cost of it. Since the records of the commissioner's court are missing for the years 1844-1849, no figures are available to ascertain the cost of its construction. In 1862, however, it was partially destroyed by federal occupying forces and replaced at a cost of $2,500.

One further addition was made to the courthouse in 1849 when the town and county governments cooperated in installing a large four-faced clock on top of its dome. This timepiece continued to serve the town of Huntsville until it was dismantled in 1964 to make way for the present courthouse, but as of January, 1967 its bell once again rang out the time on each half hour.

Between 1830 and 1860 no radical changes were made in Madison County's government, but a number of offices were created. In 1833, the duties of assessing and collecting taxes were turned over to a tax assessor and a collector. In 1839, a district chancery court was created and a chancellor appointed to handle its affairs. At the county level a register in chancery was appointed the same year. In 1850, the probate court was established by a general legislative act which substituted such a court in every Alabama county for the early county court that had previously exercised probate jurisdiction and John W. Oatey became its first judge. At this time the county court's jurisdiction in civil suits was transferred to the circuit court. In 1856, the office of county superintendent of education was created to administer free public schools which had been created by general legislative action for the whole state of Alabama in 1854.

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. Huntsville 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, 1862, 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 aspects, 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 adoption of the Alabama constitution in 1875, local and state government resumed a more normal pattern of existence, but economy and honesty in government were emphasized 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.

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 which prospered until 1900. Diversification in agriculture brought increased prosperity to Madison County's rural population, and this prosperity in turn aided the expansion of commercial interests in the town of Huntsville.

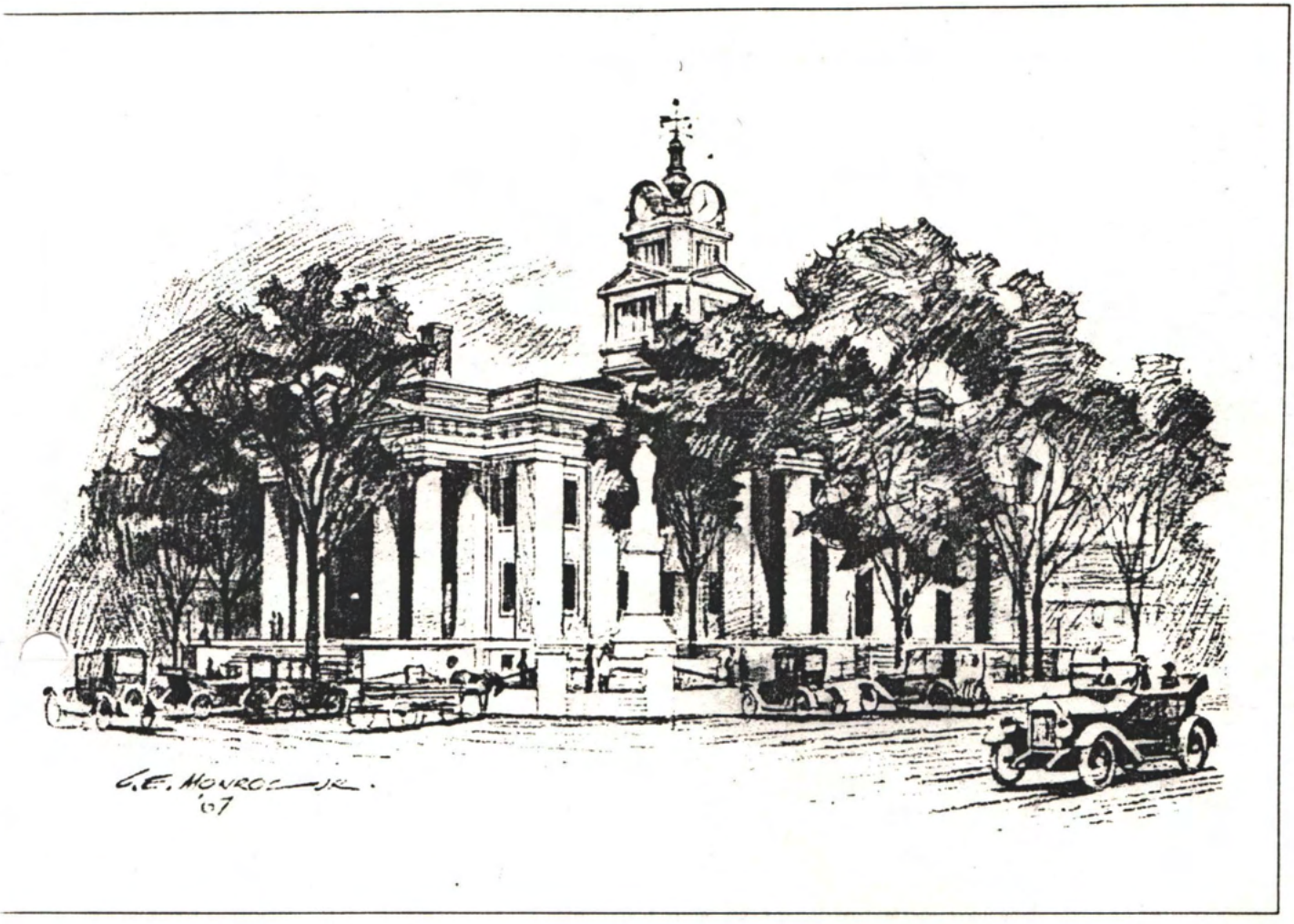
The federal census of 1910 listed the population of the city as 7,611 and that of Madison County as 47,040 — showing an increase of almost one hundred per cent in a fifty-year period. Although the county remained economically prosperous, its political influence was considerably diminished in terms of 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 regarding strictly local affairs, the county became more and more an administrative district of the state. As federal and state governments began to assume more responsibility for rendering services to people, Alabama tightened its control over tax assessment and collection, law enforcement, election administration, education, health, and public welfare at the county level.

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

At a mass meeting held to discuss the matter on February 15, 1913, those who wished to preserve the imposing Parthenon-like structure insisted that it could be enlarged and improved to accommodate the needs of county government. Others who wanted a new and modern structure reasoned that the building should reflect the intelligence and progress of the people, and that visitors to the county would be more impressed with a new courthouse than the old delapidated one which stood on the Public Square. Some pointed out that they did not believe that the old courthouse could stand remodeling or reconstruction since the walls were badly cracked. One prominent citizen favored a new courthouse to be placed somewhere else so that the old building could be used as a place for exhibitions of products and as a home for county people when they spent the day in the city. The Chamber of Commerce presented a series of resolutions urging the construction of a new courthouse on the basis of such needs as adequate space for the daily transactions of government, adequate protection for valuable county records, and needed restrooms for the convenience of county people.

After considering the question for two months, the commissioner's court voted on March 26, 1913, to remodel and improve the old courthouse at a cost not to exceed $75,000. On April 21, the plans of architect C. K. Colley of Nashville were accepted with the stipulation that bids for construction would not exceed $65,000. According to his plan, only the columns and sidewalls of the old building would be retained, and two wings with



1914-1964

Courthouse illustrations by C. E. Monroe, Jr.

a third entrance facing west were to be added to the structure. To finance this project, warrants were to be issued by the commissioner's court bearing interest at a rate not to exceed six per cent per annum and payable by means later to be determined by the court. On November 3, 1914 a special election was held to empower the commissioner's court to issue $85,000 worth of interest bearing bonds in order to buy up these original warrants and to pay for the total cost of the courthouse and its furnishings.

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

As work progressed during the summer months, it became evident that the walls and columns of the old building were in a crumbling condition, thus making it necessary 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 buff-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 Company to supply the furnishings for the courthouse at a cost of $12,522.18. By mid-August Little-Cleckler Construction Company had finished their work and plans were made to dedicate the building on September 10, 1914.

On September 9, the *Huntsville Mercury Banner* announced the forthcoming event and took occasion to comment on the courthouse which had recently been torn down: . . . *The old building was designed after the Greek Parthenon. It had a great history, and could its old walls have spoken they could have told of the oratory and eloquence of great lawyers, distinguished Congressmen, famous Senators in Congress and Presidents of the Republic. But, like all things of earth, having served its purpose and lived out its years of usefulness it passed away to make room for the new, larger, and better suited structure for the present day demands. May it (the new one) do so long and well as the old. The cornerstone will be laid at 11:00 o'clock on September 10, 1914 by the Masonic Lodge of Alabama. Everyone in Madison County is invited. Refreshments will be served and several speeches will be made. . . .*

The crowd that came to view the new courthouse found it generally acceptable. The town clock encased in its new home, the old iron fence, and the massive doric columns supporting all four entrances helped to placate the feelings 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 soldiers buried in Madison County placed at the north entrance also remained to lend further evidence that all was not changed amid the rush of economic progress.

Late in 1914, the herd of pet deer which had lived on the courthouse lawn was transferred to the McCormick estate on Meridian Street, but the iron fence continued to serve as hitching posts around the Public Square for some years. After a heated argument concerning its removal, it was finally taken down in 1921 and a heavy iron chain put in its place. When it was discovered that the Big Spring, the town's main water supply, was being polluted 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.

Amid the economic expansion engendered by World War I and the boom period of the 1920's, the county government 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 Equalization, was established on a permanent basis. In 1923, the board of county commissioners replaced the board of revenue which had replaced the old commissioner's court in 1919. A county court which combined the offices 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 circuit of the state of Alabama in 1931. With the coming of the depression in 1929, the need for the expansion of welfare led to the permanent establishment of a Department of Welfare in 1935 which later became known as the Department of Pensions and Securities.

By 1937, the courthouse had again become inadequate to house the daily activities of county government and the Elks Building on Eustis Street was acquired to relieve the situation. Extensive renovation of the courthouse in 1940 brought some relief but not enough to take care of the 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 Madison County, as well as the whole valley, soon became apparent. The varied T.V.A. programs resulting in more adequate flood control, improved water transportation, better land utilization, and 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 Madison County experienced the largest population growth in its history. In 1941, just before the outbreak 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 Ordnance Department constructed a shell loading plant close by at Redstone Arsenal. As the end of the war approached, the work force at these two installations had grown to 20,000.

Shortly after V-J Day on September 2, 1945, all production facilities were placed on standby. Not until June 1, 1949, when Redstone Arsenal was reactivated to fulfill a new mission for the Ordnance Department, did the military contribute substantially to the growth of the county's economy. With the transfer of a small group of German missile experts to Huntsville in 1950, there began a new era. The areas included in both arsenals were combined to form the Redstone Arsenal complex which, by 1966, included extensive activity related to research, development, and training for missile and space vehicle programs. Total employment of the George C. Marshall Space Flight Center and the various United States Army missile facilities had reached approximately 40,000 with an annual payroll of more than $200 million. The total yearly industrial payroll for Madison County had reached a figure 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 County's growth. In 1950, its official population stood at 72,103, in 1960 at 117,348, and in September 1964 at 173,284. The dramatic jump 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 include many 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 1, 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 segments 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 community park areas.

Planning for a new courthouse began as early as April 13, 1961, when the board of commissioners voted to secure 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, recommended 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. Cleary became attorney 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 funded 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.

Public hearings were set for October to let citizens express 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 "nineteenth century look" to remain. When the Huntsville Historical Society, one of the chief defenders of historic preservation, realized its cause was futile, its members sought to compromise with those who wanted a "modern look" on the Public Square by urging that the architecture of the new courthouse be of a "timeless type." They also urged that the southeastern residential section of "Old Huntsville" be protected by the creation of an historical zone to be known as the Twickenham District.

After considering the advice of architects, engineers, and geologists concerning the suitability of the Public Square for a multi-story structure, the commissioners

decided on December 3, 1962, to move ahead with plans to build on the original courthouse sit. At this time, architects Loyd Kranert and Thomas Jones were authorized to submit preliminary plans for the building and on 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.

On October 1, 1964, Bama Wrecking Company was awarded a $37,050 contract to demolish the old courthouse. The contents of the 1914 cornerstone were removed for safekeeping, and the twenty massive stone columns were retrieved to be used elsewhere as a reminder of Huntsville's architectural past. In 1966, the Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee proposed a plan for their use in constructing a Parthenon-type structure on the Burritt Museum property on Round Top Mountain.

The architect's final plans for the new courthouse were accepted by the commissioners on November 16, 1964, 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 on October 8, 1965, to sell the old jail. They also agreed at this time to sell the courthouse annex on Eustis Avenue. As work on the new structure progressed, it was determined than an additional courtroom was needed to provide space for the four circuit judges new serving Madison County. For this purpose the commissioners voted to spend a maximum of $75,000. To the original contract price, the county contributed $800,000 in cash for construction costs and interior furnishing and equipment thus bringing the total cost 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 of Birmingham were the two principal contractors selected to supply most of the items required. Though the original September 26, 1966, deadline for completion was not met, the new courthouse was occupied within three months of the target date. County officials began moving into their new offices on December 26, and county court was held in its new quarters on January 5, 1967.

For the first time since 1818, the Public Square provided space for the jail which was located in streamlined quarters on the ninth and tenth floors of the new courthouse. 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. Prisoners were transferred from this location to their new quarters on January 28, 1967.

The one part of the original courthouse complex no longer associated with Public Square was the market house. When the first courthouse was torn down, the public 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 remained 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 furnished 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 Avenue, N.W. to make way for the relocation of a portion of Gallatin Street in the Heart of Huntsville Plan.

Although the courthouse lawn was newly landscaped in 1966, the historic markers and monuments were returned to their places to remind people of their heritage. Temporarily missing from his pedestal was the old confederate soldier who was undergoing repair after losing a battle with a demolition squad employed by the Huntsville Housing Authority. As the last brick wall on Cotton Row came thundering down, the crew accidently let it crush the soldier as he stood on the lawn of the First National Bank awaiting his transfer back to his station on the Public Square.

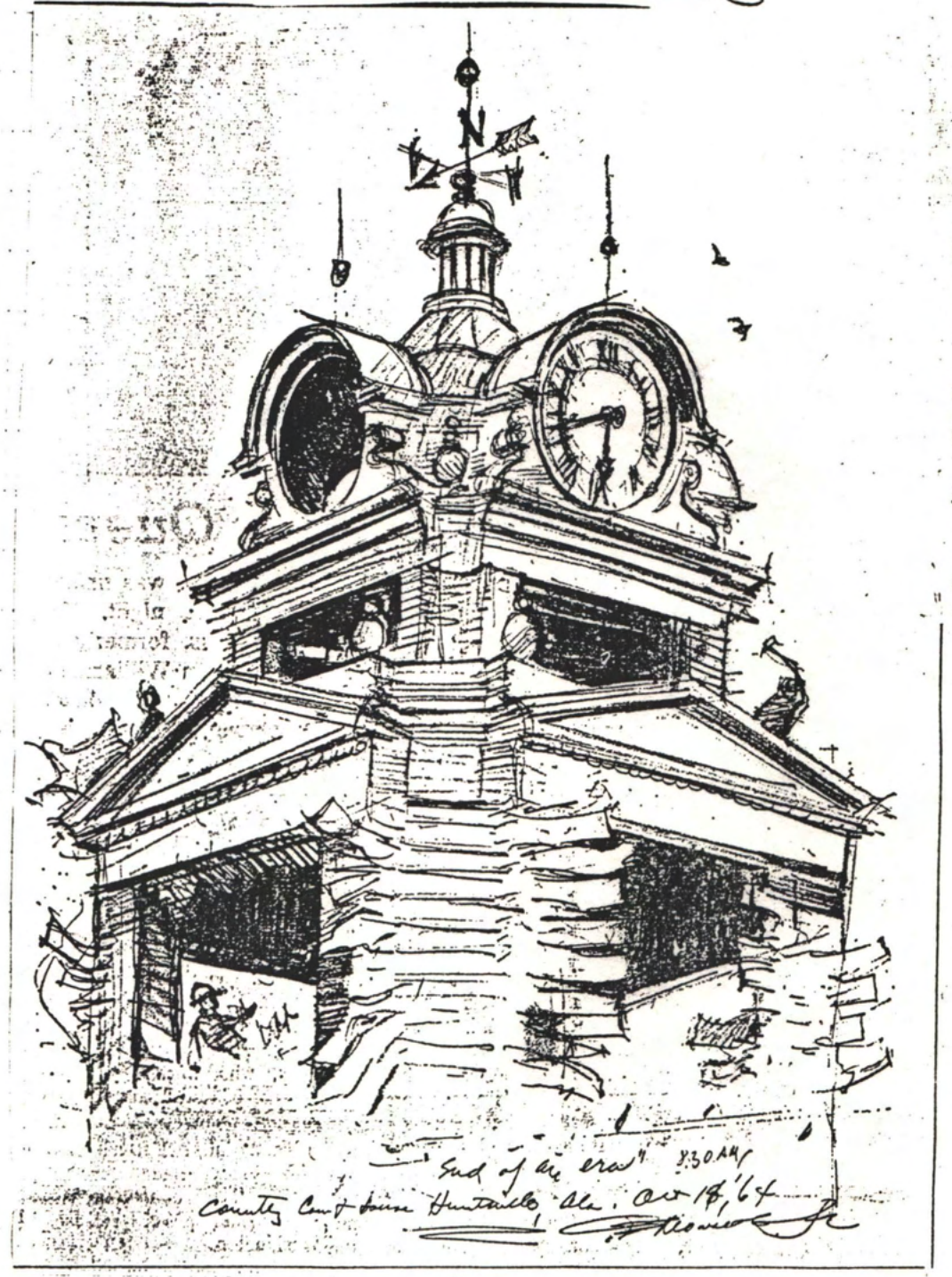
Replicated in c. 1970 & put back at W. S. of Ct Hs

Dedication of the fourth courthouse was set for March 5, 1967. At this time the cornerstone, containing items selected by the Huntsville Historical Society, was laid, speeches made, and refreshments served just as in September of 1914. Following the ceremonies, citizens of Madison County inspected their newest "Temple of Justice" located on the same Public Square that still served as the seat of county government for which it and the town of Twickenham, now Huntsville, had been created on July 5, 1810.

Today the Public Square has become largely a legal, financial, and professional center, and plans of the Central City Project will bring a further transformation of the

Huntsville, Alabama, Sunday, Oct. 18, 1964

Madison Courthouse



One Ni

By BILL J. AUSTIN
Times Staff Writer

In 1948, or thereabouts, the old Courthouse clock, which progress helped tear down last week, struck 13.

And it struck 14. And 15. And 16. And 17.

The number 13 may not be accurate, because nobody is really sure what time it was on that night when the old bell kept ringing.

But J. E. Spencer, whose job it has been to take care of the clock since he went to work for the County, recalls that he got a lot of calls from curious citizens that

—THE HUNTSVILLE TIMES—Sunday, Feb. 7, 1965

Courthouse's Old Bell Is Preserved

The old courthouse bell has not been silenced.

Its gong will be heard once again when the modern new courthouse is completed, according to architects.

They plan to have the bell shipped to Philadelphia for installation of an up-to-date striking mechanism, which will be synchronized with the clock stystem to be installed in the new building.

The bell, made in 1849, was housed in the clock tower in the old courthouse.

In the new structure, it will be on top of the 11th-floor mechanical room — out of sight, but tolling its timely message every hour.

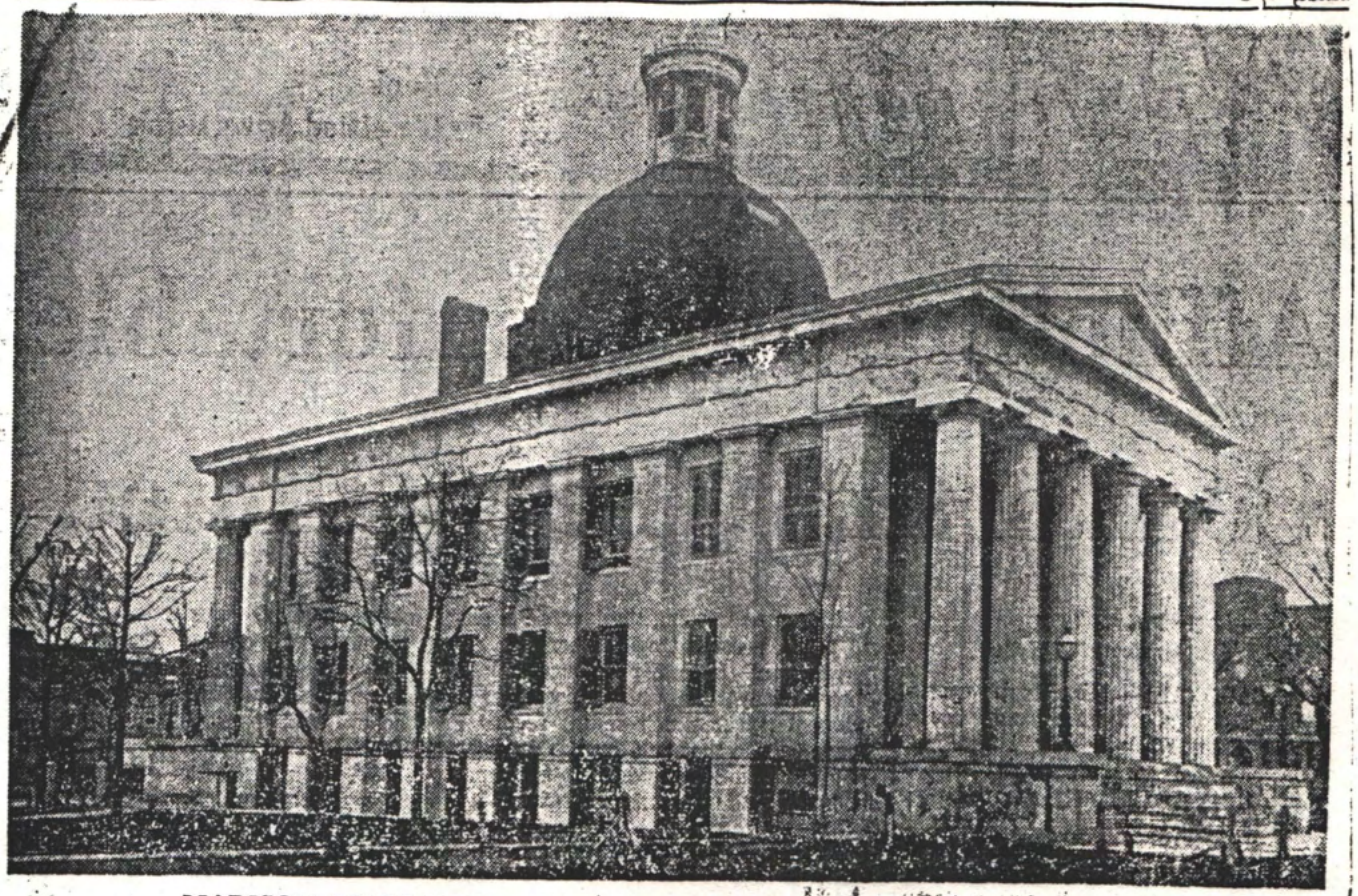
Before the Wrecking Crew Arrived

Madison County's third Courthouse, built in 1914, sat ponderously on the public Square until it was razed in 1964-65. Bricks and other items from the building were sold to residents interested in possessing a piece of the old structure. Many used the bricks to build patios, planters, barbecue pits and the like at their homes.

(Times Photo by Dudley Campbell)

Public Square

Madison Co - Courthouse



MADISON COUNTY COURTHOUSE, HUNTSVILLE (DEMOLISHED 1914)
. . . One of Vanished Buildings Shown in 'Lost America'

Books Warn of Destruction Of Architectural Heritage

11-21-71

EDITOR'S NOTE: Preservation of the environment has been a rallying cry of the 1970s so far, but the focus has been principally on preventing further depredations on nature. Two new books, "Lost America" and "Architecture of the Western Reserve," both reviewed today, strikingly remind us, however, that man lives not only in a natural environment but also in one which he has created himself, and that this man-made environment — buildings, gardens, streets, bridges, etc. — also merits the concern of the conservationist.

Of approximately 200 buildings illustrated here, about 25 were demolished and the land used for parking lots or not at all. Buildings lost through neglect, arson and natural forces are numerous enough without having others deliberately destroyed for insufficient reasons.

In all fairness, it must be admitted that zoning, building and tax laws, with few exceptions, are set up to discourage preservation, thereby accounting for much seemingly wanton destruction. Economic provisions must be made to encourage preservation before this trend can be the future.

Miss Greiff is very much concerned with this loss of our man-made heritage and has assembled in his volume pictures of buildings already destroyed. This is the first of two volumes and it covers the United States east of the Mississippi River. It is a picture book with an introduction by Mies Greiff which provides a brief history of preservation efforts in America.

The pictures are of very uneven quality bec[illegible] of these buildi[illegible] been gone for y[illegible] though the book [illegible] stand why these buildings were worth saving. And until the American people begin to care about preserving their architectural heritage, it will continue to vanish at an alarming rate.

Sewing Book Concentrates

By LINDA BAYER
For The Times

LOST AMERICA, from the Atlantic to the Mississippi, Edited by Constance M. Greiff; Foreword by James Biddle (Pyne Press, $15.95).

Architectural preservation has been too long ignored by Americans, as "Lost America" points out. Americans trot off to Europe to gape at the old buildings but return home and destroy their own heritage without realizing the contradiction. The Historic American Buildings Survey began recording notable buildings in 1934. Half of them have already been demolished.

We, as Americans, have become very conservation minded - but only in regard to our natural environment. What we have failed to realize is that we need to preserve our man-made environment as well. This does not mean that all old buildings should be preserved indiscriminately; but rather, that buildings of architectural merit should be saved and buildings of lesser note should be put to use if feasible. What is needed is balance; we should strive to achieve a mixture of both old and modern and neither should be neglected.

broken.

Another problem, as Miss Greiff states in her introduction, is that architecture is considered one of the fine arts along with painting and sculpture; yet unlike the latter two, it must justify its existence on economic grounds. "It must continue, in some way, to be functional if it is to survive. And only recently have Americans begun to accept the notion that function might include the provision of visual delight, variety in the townscape, or a sense of place and identity."

Perhaps the greatest tragedy of losing our architectural heritage is the loss of diversity in our citys. With the advent of the International Style, American cities more and more are beginning to look alike — a maze of glass curtain walls. As the older buildings are replaced by modern ones, the "variety and excitement that once characterized much of American culture" is lost. Skylines and towns become indistinguishable.

Furthermore, "we are losing not only our identity in place, but in time." Our old buildings tell us about the past and provide a reference point for the present and

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COURTHOUSE COMMENTARY

Old Courthouses' Story Unfolds

By JERRY HORNSBY
Times Staff Writer

New light is about to be shed on the rather vague history of Madison County's old courthouses.

HORNSBY

Three county government buildings have stood on the same downtown square where a new $4.5 million courthouse is now being built. Their past grows more abscure with each flip of Father Time's pages.

But two Huntsvillians are now collaborating on a local courthouse history which they hope to publish in conjunction with the opening of the new building sometime next fall.

They are James Record, chairman of the Board of Commissioners, and Dr. Frances Roberts, professor of history at the University of Alabama Huntsville Branch.

Record has almost completed his research and has turned over some 200 pages of notes to Dr. Roberts to be put together and expanded where necessary.

In digging back through the old county commission files, Record found reference to the courthouse as early as 1820, only 12 years after Madison County was formed.

ture.

Record said the descriptio: is so detailed that he believe artists will be able to re-creat the building in a drawing h hopes can be incorporated int the published booklet.

He said, however, that further research will have to be done on certain words which had a different meaning to the architects and builders of that period.

In one set of minutes he found a record of the sale of the first courthouse at auction for $5 before the second building was erected.

An idea that has won flickers of support from some parts of the nation — to reimburse the victims of criminal acts — is receiving little sympathy from court officials here.

Proponents have argued that since the state governments spend millions of dollars rehabilitating criminals and in many cases providing free legal service for felons, some consideration should also be given to the innocent victims.

They point out that if a man is slugged over the head and robbed of $100 in cash, the victim does not necessarily get his money back even though the bandit is caught and punished.

Here is a summary of how some local officials feel about the proposal:

ny first thought is it might imulate crime by making .. nforcement less zealous."

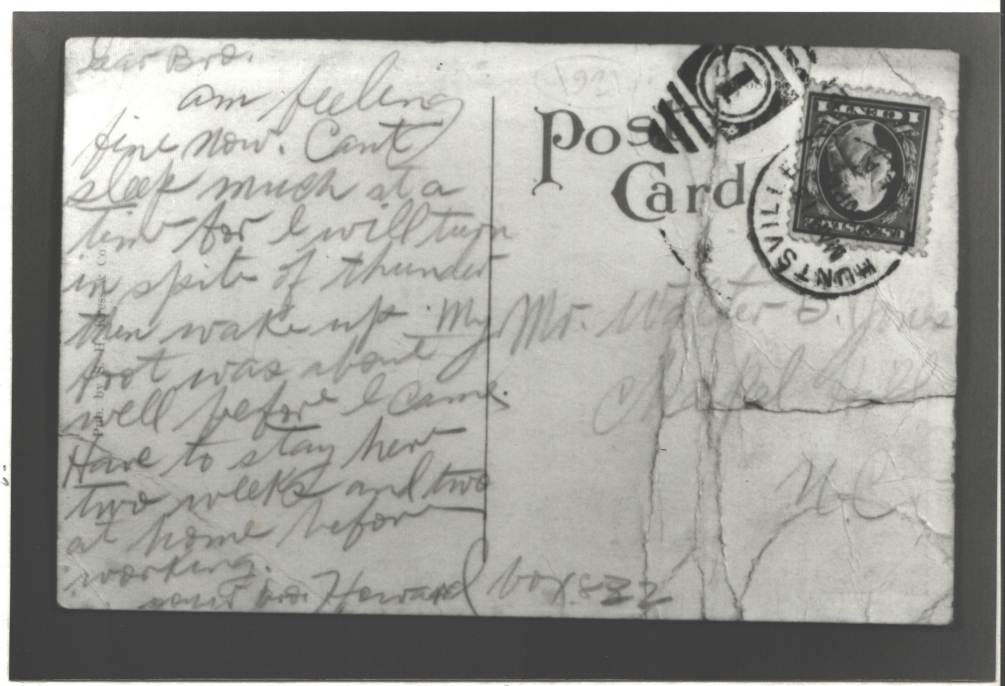
Judge Green reasoned that police officer, realizing the government would reimburse the ictim anyway, might exert less ffort in tracking the criminal.

Original in HP Jones Lib. at 420 Exotic Ave, 1994

circa 1915 postcard
of then - new
Madison Co. Ct. Hse (Al.)
demolished in 1963
(less than 50 yrs old)
in the post-WWII urge
to make everything "new
& modern feel" (see the
1964 result = blank box.)

Edgar Love, Arch.

Co. Commissioners published
justification for demolition:
"It's not very old, anyhow"
Reaction of Kathleen Paul Jones:
"If we don't save some of
our nice buildings that aren't
very old, we'll never have
ANY nice old buildings!
This had a profound effect
on the thinking of her son,
a young "build-it-new" architect,
Howard P. Jones, who by 1970
was very active in historic preservation
& restoration — HJ, April '94



From Howard Crozier Jones Sr. to brother Walter B. Jones

Note — Edgar Love, Arch.,
tried to save the c.1836 Ct. Hse.
by Georg Steele, & added to it,
but tech. & planning problems
apparently prevented this.
Love's measured drawings of Steele's
Ct Hse are in H.A.B.S. Collection
@ the Lib. of Congress, 1930's