

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

historic name Cape Girardeau Court of Common Pleas

other name/site number N/A

street & town 44 North Lorimier N/A not for publication

city or town Cape Girardeau N/A vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Cape Girardeau code 031 zip code 63701

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mark A. Miles August 30, 2010  
Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles/Deputy SHPO Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

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

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
0	0	sites
2	0	structures
2	13	objects
5	14	Total

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Function**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Government: Courthouse  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Function**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Government: Courthouse  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Classical Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**foundation** Limestone  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**walls** Brick  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**roof** Asphalt  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**other** Metal  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

**8. Description**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(enter categories from instructions)

- Law
- Politics/Government
- Architecture
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1854-1959

**Significant Dates**

1854

1888

**Significant Persons**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Lansman, Joseph (1854)

Legg, Jerome B. (1888)

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other Name of repository:

Cape Girardeau County Archives, Jackson, Missouri

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 4.6 Acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 1/6 2/7/6/6/7/8 4/1/3/1/6/6/5  
Zone Easting Northing

2 / / / / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

3 / / / / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

4 / / / / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The courthouse boundary includes the entire hilltop and terraces on which the courthouse sits. The site is bounded on the north by the property line between the First Presbyterian Church and the Common Pleas Courthouse, to the east by Spanish Street, to the south by an alley parallel to Independence Street, and to the west by Lorimier Street.

Property Tax No. N/A

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries encompass the original public square deeded by Louis Lorimier to the city and is the entire property historically associated with the courthouse.

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Robyn Mainor-Anderson, Adam Kerr, Elizabeth Vandeven, Scott House, and Steven J. Hoffman, Ph.D.

organization Southeast Missouri State University, Historic Preservation Program date April 1, 2010

street & number Department of History, MS2960 telephone 573-651-2808

city or town Cape Girardeau state MO zip code 63701

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs:** Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

name/title see attached

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Cape Girardeau Court of Common Pleas  
Cape Girardeau County, Missouri

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### Summary

The Cape Girardeau Court of Common Pleas is a two story, red brick building on a limestone foundation with a partial basement, hipped roof and cupola located at 44 North Lorimier Street in Cape Girardeau, Cape Girardeau County, Missouri. The well-known local builder Joseph Lansman is credited with the construction of the original courthouse in 1854, with additions designed by St. Louis architect Jerome B. Legg in 1888 and noted local architect John Boardman in 1959. The original design of the courthouse is a nineteenth century vernacular style with strong Federalist influences and details. The additions in 1888 give the Common Pleas courthouse a Classical Revival appearance, which it retains despite the 1959 addition. As a result of these additions, the building has a T-shaped floor plan. In 1888, the original rectangular building had two radiating wings added to the north and south ends. As part of that same remodeling, a classically detailed cupola was added along with a pedimented portico on the front, or east elevation, and a rear addition projecting west. In 1959, this western addition was extended with a thirty foot annex to the rear of building. The courthouse is located on a hilltop in downtown Cape Girardeau, and the terraced grounds are spacious and well landscaped. The interior has been renovated and updated over the years to meet the needs of the city and the court, and there are several courtrooms still in use. The building's exterior is largely intact, retains its integrity, and effectively conveys its significance for architecture and its role as a courthouse.

There are several monuments and memorials located on the courthouse grounds, many of which are considered non-contributing resources. (see pages 6 - 7) A 1922 building originally built as a Carnegie Library is also located within the boundaries, but it was altered in 1959 and is considered a non-contributing resource. In addition, a concrete stairway (1900), a fountain (1911), a bandstand (1934) and a sundial (1938) are located within the boundaries of the courthouse and are contributing resources.

### Elaboration

#### Setting:

The Cape Girardeau Court of Common Pleas is located in downtown Cape Girardeau, Missouri, on a bluff overlooking the riverfront commercial district and the Mississippi River. Primary access to the courthouse is from the west elevation on North Lorimier Street, an east-west thoroughfare along which many of Cape Girardeau's older residential buildings are located. The Southeast Missourian Building (NR 06/01/2005) is located across Lorimier Street to the north, and the William Henry and Lilla Luce Harrison House (NR 12/06/2005) and the House at 323 Themis Street (NR 06/27/1997) are visible from the courthouse grounds looking west on Themis Street. The courthouse is located on one of the highest points in the city of Cape Girardeau and

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the courthouse grounds are covered with mature trees. There is a level grassy area with a bandstand and numerous monuments to the west and north of the courthouse, and well maintained landscaped terraces to the east. A paved parking lot is located west and south of the courthouse, as is the city's former Carnegie Library, currently being used as county offices. The front of the courthouse, with its pedimented portico and classically detailed cupola, can be seen clearly from the riverfront district and provides an iconic image for Cape Girardeau. When approaching the courthouse from the east, visitors climb a set of cement stairs that ascend the terraced hill (see photo 1). These steps were originally made of sandstone, but in 1900 they were replaced with cement. These cement stairs are commonly believed to be the first concrete construction south of St. Louis.<sup>1</sup>

### Primary (East) Elevation:

The eastern façade of the Common Pleas courthouse is the most detailed and is the focal point of the building. Constructed of red brick laid in a common bond pattern, the shape of the 1854 courthouse is still visible as the 1888 wing additions are recessed slightly from the original building (see photos 2 and 3). There are several cement steps leading up to the main entrance portico which is dominated by four two-story Tuscan columns. These columns support an entablature decorated with a diaper cornice with roundel motif and a triangular pediment decorated with a square geometric pattern (see photo 4). The roundel motif is repeated in a smaller scale along the original building's pressed metal cornice. The cornice is supported by a red brick corbel table. The pressed metal cornice does not continue on the slightly recessed wings added in 1888, although a similar but slightly elongated corbel table is used on the additions to tie them stylistically to the original building. A glass lamp hangs from the roof of the portico and two Tuscan pilasters are incorporated into the eastern façade. The two story courthouse features two-over-two sash windows evenly spaced on both levels. Each level of the original building has six of these windows flanking either the central double window on the second level or the central double glass and metal entry doors on the first. There is a flat limestone lintel over the door, and all windows on both the original building and 1888 addition have flat limestone lintels and sills. The windows on the first story of the northern wing were enclosed sometime prior to 1978.<sup>2</sup> Despite being filled with brick, the window openings are still visible and the fenestration pattern is intact.

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<sup>1</sup>Felix Eugene Snider and Earl Augustus Collins, *Cape Girardeau: Biography of A City*, (Cape Girardeau, Mo: Ramfre Press, 1956), 168.

<sup>2</sup> The windows are shown as being enclosed on Thomas C. Holhouser's architectural drawings dated March 6, 1978. Court of Common Pleas blueprint collection, Cape Girardeau County Archive Center, Jackson, Missouri.

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### North and South Elevations, Main Building:

The north and south elevations of the main part of the building are nearly identical with the exception of the first level's two windows on the north elevation having been enclosed at the same time and in the same fashion as on the east elevation. The north elevation is smooth and each level features two evenly spaced two-over-two sash windows (see photos 5 and 6). The window openings, including those that were subsequently filled in with brick, have limestone flat lintels and sills. The brick corbel table extends around all three sides of the 1888 additions, including the north and south facing elevations. Both the north and south rooflines are gable-on-hip construction, and both gables have small fan details in the apex and corners. Four connected rectangular louvered vents form the bottom edge of the gables.

### West Elevation, Main Building:

The west elevation of the main building of the Common Pleas courthouse is bisected by the rear annex. The northern half of the west elevation of the main building has four window openings on each level, two on the original 1854 building and two on the 1888 wing. All the windows are two-over-two sash windows with limestone flat lintels and sills, although the window openings on the first level of the 1888 addition have been bricked in the same fashion as those on the other elevations. The western elevation has the same cornice line treatment as the eastern elevation, with the pressed metal cornice and roundel design supported by a brick corbel table on the original building and the elongated brick corbel table on the wing. The southern portion of the west elevation is detailed in the same fashion as the northern and is nearly identical to it (see photo 7). The only differences are that none of the windows are bricked in, and the 1888 wing addition has a door instead of a window as the innermost opening. A one-story porch shelters the doorways into both the 1888 wing addition and the 1888 rear annex. The porch roof is supported by four Tuscan columns, and has the roundel motif of the pressed metal cornice of the main buildings repeated in miniature along its cornice. Given the manner in which the porch roof obscures the window and doorways, it was likely added sometime after the 1888 addition was completed.

### North and South Elevations of 1888 and 1959 rear additions:

The rear addition to the courthouse was constructed in two phases. The first rear addition was part of the 1888 alteration. In 1959 the rear annex was extended thirty feet to the west. The 1888 addition is detailed in the same fashion as the wings, with the elongated red brick corbel table along the cornice, and with two openings per level. On both the north and south elevations of this addition, the second level has two symmetrically placed two-over-two sash windows with limestone flat lintels and sills, and the first level has a door and a window. The doorway is topped with an arched limestone lintel, and is located close to where the addition intersects with

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Cape Girardeau County, Missouri

the original building. The 1959 addition comprises the westernmost thirty feet. This addition uses the same red brick common bond pattern as the rest of the courthouse and replicates the brick corbel table found on the 1888 additions (see photos 5 and 6). The lintels and sills on this section, however, are “colored concrete in lieu of yellow limestone.”<sup>3</sup> On the north elevation there are two window openings per level. The spacing between these windows is the same as in the 1888 addition, but since the 1959 addition is approximately five feet longer than the 1888 addition, the final result lacks symmetry. This asymmetrical effect is even more pronounced on the south elevation. Although there are two windows on the first level, on the second story there is only one, leaving an obvious blank space above the first window in the addition. To further the asymmetrical effect, a glass and metal door is located at the western end of the addition. Unlike all the other window and door openings in the building, this door has no lintel and is the only design feature that evokes the modern design aesthetic of John Boardman, the architect of the 1959 addition.

### West Elevation of 1959 rear addition:

The west elevation of the rear addition is detailed similarly to the north and south elevation of the 1959 addition (see photo 5). There are two symmetrically placed two-over-two sash windows on each level with concrete flat lintels and sills, and the cornice has the same red brick corbel table. The roof is a gable-on-hip, with the gable end consisting of wooden slats serving as a vent.

### Roof:

The roof of the original Cape Girardeau Court of Common Pleas is hipped and both the radiating wing additions of 1888 and the rear addition of 1959 complement this appearance with their gable-on-hip roof construction. A tall, slender red brick chimney with a limestone or cement cap rises from the roof to the south of the main entry portico and is visible on the east elevation. A skylight is visible on the roof of the south elevation of the 1888 rear addition. The dominant feature of the roof, however, is the cupola added in 1888. The square cupola has elements of Romanesque Revival styling, with grouped arched windows and repeated round arch motif.<sup>4</sup> The entablature supporting the cupola has a diapered cornice with chevron designs. Above the cornice are three arched windows and a cornice with brackets. The top half of the cupola has a pyramidal roof rising to a second smaller grouping of an entablature supporting three arched

<sup>3</sup> John L.E. Boardman, Court of Common Pleas addition blueprints, January 5, 1959. Court of Common Pleas blueprint collection, Cape Girardeau County Archive Center, Jackson, Missouri.

<sup>4</sup> John J.-G. Blumenson, *Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms, 100-1945* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1981), 42-43; and James Milnes Baker, *American House Styles: A Concise Guide* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2002), 94-95.



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openings above. The cupola is capped with a metal pyramidal roof with overhanging eaves. The cupola has numerous pressed metal elements, although the shingled hipped roof structure between the two sections of the cupola is most likely constructed of wood.

### Interior:

The interior of the courthouse has been altered over the years. The Cape Girardeau Court of Common Pleas continues to serve as an active courthouse and there are several courtrooms on both the first and second floors of the building. The second floor of the original building from 1854 is dominated by one large courtroom. Offices for judges, court reporters, and other staff are found throughout both the original building and the 1959 annex. The basement of the courthouse is used as record keeping space and is not completely modernized. The original dirt floor in the basement remains from the courthouse's days as a Union prison for Confederate soldiers and Southern sympathizers. The attic serves as the access point for cupola maintenance.

### Courthouse Grounds

The courthouse sits on 4.6 acres situated atop a bluff overlooking Cape Girardeau's riverfront commercial district and the Mississippi River. The terraced grounds east of the courthouse are shaded by mature trees and rise in step like fashion from the town below. Although reportedly worked on by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s, the terraces retain much the same profile as when they were resodded in 1909 as a result of the efforts of the Cape Girardeau Improvement Association.<sup>5</sup> A grand cement stairway flanked by historic lighting replaced the original sandstone steps in 1900 and rise from Spanish Street below, giving the city below the iconic view of the courthouse that it retains to this day.<sup>6</sup>

The western portion of the courthouse park is relatively flat and is the site of several monuments and a bandstand. Although altered over the years, a bandstand was first built in this location in 1913.<sup>7</sup> In 1934 a cement platform was built at the bandstand to make the performers more noticeable, and that bandstand is still used for weekly concerts in the summer to this day (see photo 8).<sup>8</sup> A monument dedicated to Cape Girardeau's Union war dead is also located on the

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<sup>5</sup> Snider and Collins, 168; *Southeast Missourian*, March 30, 1909.

<sup>6</sup> Snider and Collins, 168.

<sup>7</sup> *Southeast Missourian*, "History of Girardeau for 100 Years Written Around the Old Courthouse Park," February 28, 1941.

<sup>8</sup> *Southeast Missourian*, June 5, 1934, and September 18, 2009; Snider and Collins, 186, and Leland J. (Freck) Shivelbine, telephone interview with Steven Hoffman, December 9, 2009. Mr. Shivelbine is the son of Cape Girardeau Municipal Band (Muny band) director William Shivelbine and long time Muny band member.

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Cape Girardeau Court of Common Pleas  
Cape Girardeau County, Missouri

grounds and consists of a statue and fountain erected in 1911. Although the statue was damaged in a storm and rebuilt in 2003, it is an exact recasting of the original (see photo 9).<sup>9</sup> Other memorials and commemorative markers are also located in various places around the grounds, including a sundial dedicated in 1938 in memory of longtime Chamber of Commerce secretary William F.D. Bajer (see photo 10).

The following monuments and markers were installed on the courthouse property after the period of significance or at an unknown date and are considered non-contributing to the historic significance of the Court of Common Pleas. The majority of these monuments are small, concrete or stone markers with plaques, although both the Confederate and Vietnam memorials are large upright granite slabs.

1. Vietnam War Monument, 2006. An upright granite slab on stepped stone base (see photo 11).<sup>10</sup>
2. Maguire Memorial #1, c. 2004. Bronze plaque on horizontal granite slab on cement base. Memorial tree marker for Jeffrey S. Maguire, local attorney, placed by Cook, Barkett, Maguire & Ponder, L.C.
3. Maguire Memorial #2, c. 2004. Horizontal granite slab. Memorial tree marker for Jeffrey S. Maguire.
4. Unnerstall Memorial, c. 2004. Horizontal granite slab. Memorial tree marker for Carol Unnerstall.
5. Confederate Memorial, c. 1931 An upright granite slab on stepped stone base. This memorial to the region's Confederate dead was erected near the old traffic bridge on Morgan Oak Street in 1931 and moved to the courthouse grounds in 1995.<sup>11</sup>
6. Crittendon/Goss Memorial, c. 1962. Bronze shield on irregular stone base. Memorial to two police officers killed in the line of duty (Donald Crittendon and Herbert Goss) dedicated in 1962.
7. Concrete Streets marker, c. 1962. Two bronze plaques on upright concrete base resting on concrete slab. Celebrates 50 years of concrete streets in Cape Girardeau..
8. Hutson Memorial, c. 1922. Bronze plaque on irregular granite boulder. A memorial to police chief N.J. Hutson, dedicated in 1922, was relocated to the courthouse grounds from Murtagh Park sometime after 1958, and is located adjacent to the memorial to Crittendon and Goss.<sup>12</sup>
9. Sesquicentennial Celebration Marker, c. 1956. Horizontal Granite slab. Memorial marker from the city's Sesquicentennial Celebration in 1956.

<sup>9</sup> *Southeast Missourian*, June 13, 2003.

<sup>10</sup> *Southeast Missourian*, July 5, 2006.

<sup>11</sup> *Southeast Missourian*, September 28, 1995, October 5, 1995 and June 23, 2003.

<sup>12</sup> *Southeast Missourian*, September 25, 1958.

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10. "Montezuma Cypress" marker, unknown date. Horizontal granite slab. Acknowledges donation of a tree the founders of the Southeast Missourian, Fred and George Naeter, brought back from Mexico.
11. Courthouse and Park Historical Marker, date unknown. Bronze plaque on upright cement base. Historical marker describing the significance of the courthouse and grounds.
12. Schuchert Memorial, date unknown. Bronze slab on upright cement slab. Located near the bandstand, celebrating the life and music of longtime Municipal Band director Dr. C.E. Schuchert (died 1931).
13. Shivelbine Memorial, date unknown. Bronze plaque on upright cement slab on cement base. Located near the bandstand, celebrating the life and music of longtime Municipal Band director William Adam Shivelbine (died 1949).

The presence of these markers and memorials does not detract from the integrity of the courthouse.

### Carnegie Library

Just south of the statue and fountain is the courthouse annex, built in 1922 as the city's Carnegie Library. The library moved to a new location in 1980, and the building was converted to use as county offices.<sup>13</sup> The building was originally built in the Collegiate Gothic style using red brick laid in an English bond pattern, but it was extensively altered in 1959 by John Boardman, the same architect who extended the courthouse that same year. Although the rear and side elevations retain their original detailing, a new entrance designed in the modern style was added in 1959 (see photo 12 and 15). The entryway is the most distinctive feature of the 1959 additions, and has double glass and metal doors with a glass transom on the west elevation, a curving wall of rough face ashlar cut limestone on the north, and a broad expanse of five long and narrow casement windows sitting atop smooth limestone panels on the east. The enclosed entrance has a flat roof. The next section of the 1959 addition is made of red brick in a running bond pattern. Both the east and west elevations of this addition are identical, and have a centrally located three-part casement window (see photos 12 and 14). Smooth limestone panels identical to those on the east elevation of the entryway are located above and below the windows, giving each elevation a banded appearance. Above the flat roof of this addition, the cornice line details of the original building are visible, as well as the bricked-in windows of the façade.

The cornice of the original building is flat with a limestone cap. A limestone string course encircles the building approximately two feet below the cornice line. The east and west elevations of the original building are identical and have three evenly spaced six-part windows with decorative window surrounds on the main level, and smaller windows for the basement

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<sup>13</sup> "Lost and Saved Landmarks: Carnegie Library," *Southeast Missourian*  
<http://www.semissourian.com/story/1098978.html> (accessed December 10, 2009).

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located directly below. The south elevation has three four-part windows flanking a centrally located six-part window on the main level, with the same smaller windows found on the east and west elevations located below (see photo 13). The window below the large central window was converted into a doorway at some point, and the basement level window immediately to the east of this door was bricked in. A paved parking lot is located just south of the annex.

Although the library was altered extensively in 1959 and can no longer convey its architectural significance, it retains its proximate relationship with the courthouse and occupies a site that has had a public building of some sort on it since the mid-nineteenth century. Although the jail built around the same time as the courthouse was located just north of where the fountain is now and is no longer standing, the 1884 Sanborn map depicts a one-story brick building in that location used for the city engineering. In addition, according to the 1884 Sanborn Fire Insurance map, a one-story brick building used as a city toolhouse and maintenance facility occupied a site near the library. Both buildings had been removed 1915.<sup>14</sup> The presence of a building such as the Annex on the courthouse grounds is fully in keeping with their historic function and does not, therefore, detract from the integrity of the site as a whole. The fact that the modern addition to the library was completed in the same year and by the same architect who designed the most recent addition to the courthouse further minimizes the negative effect such a building might otherwise have on the integrity of the Court of Common Pleas and grounds.

### Integrity:

Despite the passage of time and its continuous use as a courthouse, the Cape Girardeau Court of Common Pleas retains its integrity. The exterior of the courthouse remains in good condition and appears much as it did when it was first altered to its current Classical Revival style by J.B. Legg in 1888. The annex addition in 1959 does not obscure the prominent east façade of the courthouse which historically has been the view most closely associated with the built

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<sup>14</sup> Snider and Collins, 55; The University of Missouri, Digital Library, Sanborn Maps for Missouri, Cape Girardeau, 1884, 1908 and 1915.  
[http://digital.library.umsystem.edu/cgi/i/image/image-idx?sid=13a5cd5450f10707b596f3c0719fe8de&q1=cape+girardeau&rgn1=umcscsanic\\_all&op2=And&q2=&rgn2=umcscsanic\\_all&type=boolean&view=thumbnail&c=umcscsanic](http://digital.library.umsystem.edu/cgi/i/image/image-idx?sid=13a5cd5450f10707b596f3c0719fe8de&q1=cape+girardeau&rgn1=umcscsanic_all&op2=And&q2=&rgn2=umcscsanic_all&type=boolean&view=thumbnail&c=umcscsanic) (Accessed on December 11, 2009).

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environment and streetscape of downtown Cape Girardeau. In addition, the sensitive treatment by John Boardman in the 1959 addition not only complements the Classical Revival details implemented in Legg's design, but conveys in its own right the importance of the courthouse to the community through the middle of the twentieth century and beyond. The Common Pleas Courthouse is well preserved in workmanship, design, materials, feeling, association, original location, and represents well the period of significance 1854 to 1959.

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### Additional Architect/Builder

Boardman, John (1959)

### Summary

The Cape Girardeau Court of Common Pleas, 44 North Lorimier St., Cape Girardeau, Cape Girardeau County, Missouri is locally significant under Criteria A in the areas of Politics/Government and Law, and Criteria C in the area of Architecture. Initially the courthouse had been established as only one of four common pleas courthouses in the State of Missouri and today it remains as the last functioning court of the Missouri common pleas court system. The courthouse served an important local role in the American Civil War, acting as a base of operations for the Union Army. After the Civil War, the building and the property continued to be used as both a courthouse and the site of numerous political, social, and religious events in the community and has continued to serve as a court for 155 years. The Cape Girardeau Court of Common Pleas is also significant under Criteria C, Architecture, for its strong Classical Revival details expressed in the 1888 alterations and for its association with local master builder Joseph Lansman, St. Louis architect Jerome B. Legg, and local architect John Boardman. The courthouse is sited majestically on a high hill overlooking the Mississippi River and the downtown commercial district, and remains an iconic image of Cape Girardeau as a historic riverfront town. An additional building, bandstand and several monuments and memorials on the courthouse grounds help convey the continuing cultural, political and historical significance of the site and serve as reminders of various events in local history. Although some exterior and interior alterations have occurred, a high percentage of the historic material is extant. The period of significance for the Cape Girardeau Court of Common Pleas is from 1854, the date of initial construction of the courthouse, to 1959, the date of the last major addition.

### Historical Background

The city of Cape Girardeau traces its origins to the founding of a fur trading post along the Mississippi River in 1712 by the Frenchman Ensign Jean Baptist Girardot, who lent his name to the future town that would be established nearby. The town itself was established after the French Canadian, Don Louis Lorimier, received a Spanish land grant in 1792. By 1803, Louis Lorimier had established the largest and most well known trading post between St. Louis and Memphis, and in November of that year he received Lewis Meriwether and members of his expedition when they stopped to pick up supplies prior to the start of their historic journey of discovery. Lorimier deeded the land on which the courthouse sits for use as a site for common

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pleas law in 1805.<sup>15</sup> The City of Cape Girardeau was officially laid out in February or March of 1806 by Louis Lorimier's secretary, Bartholomew Cousins. The petition for incorporation of the city was presented to the Court of Common Pleas in 1808 and was signed by Lorimier on July 23, 1808.<sup>16</sup>

In 1851, legislation was passed in Cape Girardeau approving the construction of the courthouse and the building was completed in 1854. The original purpose of this court was to serve as grounds for arbitration between private citizens, however over time it was modified to "handle the area's criminal, civil, and probate matters" and its functions as a court continue today.<sup>17</sup>

### Legal and Political/Governmental Significance

The Cape Girardeau Court of Common Pleas is one of only four common pleas courthouses in the state of Missouri. The three other courthouses are located in Louisiana, Hannibal, and Sturgeon. Aside from Cape Girardeau, only Hannibal's courthouse continues its historic function as a courthouse and its building is a replacement constructed in 1901.<sup>18</sup> The authority of common pleas courts deals with "pleas and actions that have been brought by private persons against private persons, or by the Government where the cause of action is of a civil nature," and derives from English practice in regard to common law.<sup>19</sup>

As late as 1940, the courthouse in Cape Girardeau was the only common pleas court in Missouri to have probate jurisdiction in addition to the general civil jurisdiction.<sup>20</sup> The original jurisdiction of the court dealt with probate of last wills and testaments, the appointment of guardians of orphans, minors, and those with a mental deficiency, as well as all disputes among private parties that in 1853 could not exceed the sum of \$100.00.<sup>21</sup> The legislature set the judge's compensation at three hundred dollars a year, to be paid from the State Treasury.<sup>22</sup> The presiding judge was required to have the same qualifications as a circuit court judge, and was

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<sup>15</sup> Louis Houck, *A History of Missouri*, Volume III (Chicago: R.R. Donnelley & Sons, Co., 1908), 167-168.

<sup>16</sup> Snider and Collins, 31-32.

<sup>17</sup> Tom Neumeyer, Frank Nickell, and Joel P. Rhodes, *Historic Cape Girardeau*, (San Antonio: Historical Publishing Network, 2004), 18.

<sup>18</sup> Karen Bode Baxter, et al, "Marion County Courthouse," National Register of Historic Places, October 22, 2002.

<sup>19</sup> J. Henry Caruthers, *History of Cape Girardeau Court of Common Pleas* (Cape Girardeau, MO: Southeast Missourian Printing and Stationary, 1944), 12.

<sup>20</sup> Caruthers, 11.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*, 15.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*, 13.

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elected to a four year term.<sup>23</sup> Juvenile jurisdiction was given to the Cape Girardeau Court of Common Pleas in the revised statues of 1919 establishing juvenile law as a circuit court function for counties with less than 50,000 residents.<sup>24</sup>

In most communities in Missouri, the common pleas court was eventually subsumed under the circuit court. In 1875, the Missouri Constitutional Convention set in motion a policy to abolish all common pleas courts in the state, incorporating them into the circuit court system.<sup>25</sup> An Act of the Missouri General Assembly in 1879 provided that the existing common pleas courts would be presided over by judges of the circuit courts “and made part of such circuits.”<sup>26</sup> In 1883, however, special legislation was passed allowing for the continuance of the common pleas courts in Cape Girardeau, Hannibal, Sturgeon, and Louisiana, giving the court in Cape Girardeau a distinctiveness which it retains to this day.<sup>27</sup>

Although countless trials have been held in the Court of Common Pleas over the years, perhaps the most famous, or at least the one that garnered the most national attention, was the 1906 New Madrid peonage case. The Smiths, a white family of three brothers and a son, along with five of their employees, were charged in federal court with peonage and of violating the Thirteenth Amendment outlawing slavery. The Smiths owned approximately 20,000 acres of drained swampland and were accused of luring forty African Americans from Memphis, Tennessee to work the land, and then keeping them under armed guard, in poor living conditions, and without pay.<sup>28</sup> Looking back on the case from the vantage of 1941, the Southeast Missourian noted that “newspapers from coast to coast asked for ream after ream of copy and sent writers to cover it. Called the peonage case, it brought national attention to the city and building.”<sup>29</sup>

The Cape Girardeau Court of Common Pleas has maintained its historic function as an operating courthouse for 155 years, longer than any other common pleas court in the state of Missouri. The specific legal responsibilities of this court suggest a unique history in the state’s judicial system and illustrate the important role that the court has played in the realm of law, politics and government, typically at the local, but occasionally at the national level. The Common Pleas courthouse serves as a tangible and visible reminder of how Missouri’s legal system has evolved

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<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*, 11.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*, 19-24.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*, 18 and 37.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*, 19.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*, 19, 37-38.

<sup>28</sup> *Cape Girardeau Democrat*, June 16, 1906; *The Kansas City Star*, September 11, 1906.

<sup>29</sup> *Southeast Missourian*, “History of Girardeau for 100 Years Written Around the Old Courthouse Park.”



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and changed over the last 150 years, and of the centrality of our legal system to the lives of Cape Girardeau's citizens to this day.

### Social History significance

Shortly after the construction of the courthouse, the Civil War erupted and the building served as a military headquarters, a prison for Confederate soldiers and Southern sympathizers, and a hospital. Most importantly for the war effort, however, the courthouse also served as the headquarters of the provost marshal.<sup>30</sup>

The position of provost marshal in the United States dates to the Declaration of Independence in 1776, and is a post with many dimensions. Normally in the army, provost marshals oversee military discipline and the post was used off and on throughout the early history of the United States. Beginning in July 1861, the post was reactivated and a provost marshal was assigned to each section of the Army. Their chief function was preservation of military order.<sup>31</sup>

In 1862 the federal adjutant general's office issued General Order 140 which established special provost marshals for each state. Their duties included investigating treasonous acts and arresting persons who were not loyal. In 1863 these duties were reorganized and provost marshals were assigned for each congressional district.<sup>32</sup>

In Missouri, the provost marshal replaced civil courts. The provost marshal had "the power to administer and enforce the law when it came to regulating public places; conduct searches, seizures, and arrests; issue passes to citizens for movement in and out of Union lines; and record and investigate citizen complaints. It was not uncommon for the law to be suspended in many cases and for the provost marshal, mostly independent of any real supervision, to dispense with the rules of civil procedure."<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> *Union Provost Marshals' File of Papers Relating to Individual Citizens*, microfilm reel F1242, November, 1861 "claim for theft and damage when courthouse used as military hospital," <http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/provost/history.asp> (accessed December 8, 2009); Edwin C. McReynolds, *Missouri, A History of the Crossroads State*, (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1962), 232.

<sup>31</sup> Ronald Craig, "Evolution of the Office of the Provost Marshal General," *Military Police*, April, 2004 [http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi\\_m0IBW/is\\_1\\_4/ai\\_n6124024/?tag=content;coll](http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m0IBW/is_1_4/ai_n6124024/?tag=content;coll) (accessed December 2, 2009).

<sup>32</sup> <http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/provost/history.asp> (accessed November 28, 2009).

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*

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In July of 1861, troops of the 20<sup>th</sup> Illinois Volunteer Infantry arrived in Cape Girardeau to great fanfare. Representing law and order, they were embraced by most of the local population still in residence. Under threat of secessionist attack the soldiers moved to protect the city. On August 5<sup>th</sup>, one soldier reported that as a precaution, they would “strike tents and move to Capatoline (sic) Hill” where they would “lay on our arms all night” (slept with their guns loaded). While the exact location is not described in detail, it seems probable that the location referred to in the written document was the open, public land around the courthouse.<sup>34</sup>

On August 30, 1861, after the Battle of Wilson’s Creek, the commanding general for the area, General John Fremont, declared marshal law in the region. Fremont proclaimed the existence of Federal control north of a line from Cape Girardeau to Rolla to Jefferson City and on to Leavenworth, Kansas. North of this line martial law existed. No law, essentially, existed south of that line. Therefore Cape Girardeau was placed on the southernmost point of Union territory, and thus the front line of the Civil War in Missouri.<sup>35</sup>

Taking office in late 1861, the provost marshal utilized the Common Pleas Courthouse for the remainder of the war. The building, previously housing the civil authority, gave the post instant credibility. Further, the imposing site of the structure made it obvious that it was the center of local government, formerly civil and now military. The records available show a great variety of duties and jurisdictions as military justice was substituted for civil law. A few examples from the record, listed below, illustrate the range of issues with which the provost marshal dealt:<sup>36</sup>

- John Taylor, confessing to a crime (January 16, 1864, reel F1402).
- Complaint of Philip Young whose horse had been appropriated by the US artillery (August 2, 1864, reel F1477).
- A request for Nancy Stephens to be transported to St. Louis (October 8, 1864, reel F1268).
- Depositions from loyal citizens accusing Philo Smith of being a secessionist (November 29, 1861, reel F1263).

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<sup>34</sup> Allen Morgan Geer and Mary Ann Andersen (ed.), *The Civil War Diary of Allen Morgan Geer*, (Bloomington IL, McLean County Historical Society, 1977), 9.

<sup>35</sup> James Denny and John Bradbury, *The Civil War’s First Blood: Missouri, 1854-1861*, (Boonville, Missouri Life Press 2007), 61.

<sup>36</sup> The Provost Marshal Papers for the state of Missouri are part of Record Group 109, War Department Collection of Confederate Records in the National Archives and Records Administration, Union Provost Marshals’ File of Papers Relating to Individual Citizens. An online database index is available at <http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/provost/default.asp>, and the records are available on microfilm at the Missouri State Archives.

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- Complaint of Margaret Walker that the 29<sup>th</sup> Mo Volunteers burned 4430 rails while camped on her farm ((November 17, 1862, reel F1275).
  - Oath of Allegiance: Robert Lively (September 11, 1862, reel F1482); James Penny (June 23, 1865, reel F1161).
  - Note from officer commanding Post of Cape Girardeau that William Moore has sold liquor to Irish women who gave it to soldiers (September 6, 1863, reel F1202).
  - Concerns about Dittlinger house being torn down for construction of fort (September 4, 1861, reel F1581).
  - Deposition that Samuel Randol said he had two sons in the rebel army and was glad of it (September 30, 1863, reel F1255).
  - E. W. Harris questioning authority of the Provost to order him to leave (October 14, 1862, reel F1191).
  - Complaint of Mack Harris, a Negro fireman on the steamer "Bostonia", who was beaten by an engineer (July 2, 1864, reel 1338).
  - Complaint against the 20<sup>th</sup> Illinois Volunteers that they took a Negro from James McFarland who wants his property back (October 24, 1861 and October 26, 1861, reel F1199).

Behind the courthouse was a jail structure which was used extensively during the Civil War. Built in 1856, the building "faced east, had a barred window and door, and measured 12 x 25 feet." The cells reportedly had iron rings attached to the walls to restrain prisoners.<sup>37</sup> According to local tradition, the basement of the Common Pleas Courthouse was also used to house prisoners.<sup>38</sup> An account of the history of the Cape Girardeau Police Department notes that just three years after construction of the jail "a workhouse was built nearby" as a place where offenders of the law were sentenced to ten hours hard labor as a form of punishment.<sup>39</sup> These facilities would have both been available for use by the provost marshal's office during the Civil War. One account describes numerous Confederate prisoners being held in the jail, including one instance of forty rebels captured in Bloomfield in 1863.<sup>40</sup> Although it is not certain the building depicted on the 1884 Sanborn map was the jail, or that the second building shown on the courthouse grounds was the workhouse, an article in the *Southeast Missourian* from 1908

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<sup>37</sup> "History of the Cape Girardeau Police Department,"

<http://www.cityofcapegirardeau.org/Police/History.aspx> (accessed December 13, 2009).

<sup>38</sup> Neumeyer, Nickell, and Rhodes, 26-27; Snider and Collins, 48.

<sup>39</sup> "History of the Cape Girardeau Police Department."

<sup>40</sup> August Scherneckau, James E. Potter and Edith Robbins editors, trans. Edith Robbins, *Marching with the First Nebraska: A Civil War Diary* (Norman OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 2007), 101.

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indicates “residents [were] looking forward to the removal of the old jail and the other unsightly buildings standing near it,” suggesting that at least the old jail was still standing at that time.<sup>41</sup>

An infamous case centering on the Court of Common Pleas occurred in February of 1864 when a notorious guerilla, John Fugate Bolin, was captured by Union forces near Bloomfield, Missouri. He was brought back to Cape Girardeau and according to local tradition was kept in the basement of the courthouse. Army telegraph messages back and forth to St. Louis discuss whether to hold Bolin for trial or to just kill him outright. General Clinton Fisk in St. Louis advised Colonel J. B. Rogers, the regimental commander stationed in Cape Girardeau, to hold him for trial. However, on the night of February 5<sup>th</sup> a large crowd of citizens and soldiers took Bolin from the courthouse, placed him on a wagon, rode him to a tollgate on the Bloomfield Road south of Cape Girardeau and hung him. Fisk afterwards commented that it would “hardly be necessary” to give Bolin a trial. Suggesting Fisk’s reply might be seen as “winking” at the illicit act and to allow him to “better be able to restrain my men” in the future, Rogers requested, and received, a reprimand for allowing mob rule to govern the day. This is one of the few situations in Missouri where the impromptu execution of a guerilla leader was discussed in official correspondence.<sup>42</sup>

Missouri was one of the last states in the country to be under provost law, and based on the available records, the provost marshal at Cape Girardeau ceased operations by 1866.<sup>43</sup>

The significance and use of the courthouse as a site of military importance did not diminish after the Civil War. After the end of World War I, the courthouse was used for returning service men from Cape Girardeau and the surrounding regions as a discharge station where local men were mustered out from their military service. On May 9, 1918 Company L 140<sup>th</sup> regiment, otherwise known by those in the community as “our boys,” marched through Cape Girardeau in the rain to the Courthouse. With so many men passing through the courthouse lawn, the scene quickly became “a quagmire.”<sup>44</sup>

Courthouse Park is also recognized as an admired setting, past and present, for local entertainment, community events, and as the site for numerous memorials in remembrance of the

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<sup>41</sup> *Southeast Missourian*, October 3, 1908.

<sup>42</sup> United States War Department, *The War of the Rebellion: a compilation of the official records of the Union and Confederate armies, prepared under the direction of the Secretary of War by Robert N. Scott* (Harrisburg, Pa.: National Historical Society, 1985), *Correspondence of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion*, Volume 34, Part 2, 243, 244, 248, 253 and 254.

<sup>43</sup> <http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/provost/history.asp> (accessed November 28, 2009).

<sup>44</sup> *Southeast Missourian*, “History of Girardeau for 100 Years Written Around the Old Courthouse Park.”

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locally significant events in American History in which Cape Girardeau has participated. In the period after the Civil War, when steamboats were still quite popular, steamboat races would occur up and down the Mississippi River. One particularly well known race between the steamers *Natchez* and *Robert E. Lee* occurred in 1870 and involved the use of the Common Pleas Courthouse lawn. With the advantage of such high visibility, numerous bonfires were lit to serve as guides for the two steamboats and their crews as they raced up the river to St. Louis.<sup>45</sup>

The courthouse also served the community as a backdrop for the visit of the President of the United States. In the early morning hours of October 26, 1909, large crowds assembled on the courthouse lawn to watch President William Howard Taft's sixteen vessel flotilla dock.<sup>46</sup> In an article celebrating the anniversary of the event, the *Southeast Missourian* wrote that Taft "was accompanied by Vice President James S. Sherman, 177 members of Congress, several governors and numerous local dignitaries and business leaders from the Mississippi River valley. The presidential river tour was sponsored by the Lakes-to-Gulf Deep Waterway Association, organized to lobby Congress to appropriate money to develop and maintain a 9-foot navigation channel on the Mississippi River.... It was the biggest flotilla of prominent politicians perhaps in American history," said Dr. Frank Nickell, director of the Center for Regional History at the [Southeast Missouri State University]."<sup>47</sup>

Later in the century the courthouse would also serve as the site of visits by men who would either become or would seek to become president. On October 1, 1920, a young Franklin Roosevelt arrived in Cape Girardeau and delivered a speech to a massive crowd assembled on the courthouse lawn during his bid for the vice presidency.<sup>48</sup> Many years later on July 26, 1940, Harry S. Truman spoke at a rally at the courthouse band pavilion when he was running for reelection to his Senate seat. On April 26, 1952, the courthouse grounds and band pavilion served as a rally point for presidential hopeful Senator Robert A. Taft, the son of President William Howard Taft, who came to Cape Girardeau seeking the Republican nomination for president.<sup>49</sup>

But more important than serving as a local stage for national political figures was the role the Common Pleas Courthouse played in the day-to-day political life of the people of Cape Girardeau. Throughout its history, the courthouse played host to numerous state and local

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<sup>45</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>46</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>47</sup> *Southeast Missourian*, "Greatest of All Days' when President Taft visited Cape Girardeau in 1909," Monday, October 26, 2009.

<sup>48</sup> *Southeast Missourian*, "History of Girardeau for 100 Years Written Around the Old Courthouse Park."

<sup>49</sup> *Southeast Missourian*, April 26, 1952, July 31, 1953, and August 6, 2004.

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politicians seeking office. In 1908, for example, the Democratic candidate for Governor, Judge W.H. Wallace of Kansas City, Democratic candidate for Congress, Joseph J. Russell, and Democratic Senator William J. Stone each spoke to large crowds at the courthouse during their campaign stops in the city. Although all these candidates reportedly enthralled their audiences and spoke eloquently about national and state issues, Senator Stone held “his audience for more than two hours, although many were compelled to stand throughout.” On the evening before the general election, Cape Girardeau’s citizens were again assembled at the courthouse where “candidates for various [local] offices [were] heard by a good-sized crowd.”<sup>50</sup>

These scenes of political rallies for local, state and national politicians played themselves out during election campaigns throughout the twentieth century. In 1932, Joseph Kane, candidate for Judge of the St. Louis Court of Appeals, called for “a ‘new deal’ in governmental administration” echoing a familiar refrain from the national Democratic Party platform. That same year local citizens met at the courthouse to organize a county-wide “Dearmont for Governor Club,” seeking to attract both Republicans and Democrats to support the local state senator.<sup>51</sup>

The courthouse served as a gathering place for citizens to voice less partisan political concerns as well. During the economic depression of the 1930s, the Taxpayers League held forums for discourse on local tax initiatives. Meetings of this type were a long standing tradition at the courthouse. In March 1908 Cape Girardeau’s citizens met to rally for construction of a high school in the city, an endeavor that would not reach fruition for another seven years.<sup>52</sup>

The courthouse played an important social role in the life of the community as well. In February, 1908, a number of prominent women met in the courthouse to form the Cape Girardeau Improvement Association. This group of distinguished “ladies” sought to beautify the town, and immediately began to work on convincing the city council to improve the look of the courthouse grounds. Within the year new benches and lights were installed, and steps were taken to remove the old jail and other “unsightly” outbuildings. The following spring the terraces were repaired and resodded, and another group of women were busily raising money for a monument to be erected on the courthouse lawn honoring the city’s Civil War Union dead.<sup>53</sup> Men, too, used the

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<sup>50</sup> *Southeast Missourian*, July 8, 1908, October 17, 1908, October 23, 1908, and November 2, 1908.

<sup>51</sup> *Southeast Missourian*, October 26, 1932 and March 2, 1932.

<sup>52</sup> *Southeast Missourian*, April 1, 1933, March 20, 1908, March 25, 1908.

<sup>53</sup> *Southeast Missourian*, February 16, 1908, February 18, 1908, February 16, 1909, February 21, 1909, March 15, 1909, March 30, 1909.

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courthouse as a prominent location to organize professional groups, including the establishment by the city's lawyers of the local bar association in 1909.<sup>54</sup>

The utilitarian function of the courthouse as a meeting place for the people of Cape Girardeau is part of what makes the Court of Common Pleas significant to the local community. Not only did the community use it for such secular activities as a place for the Cape Girardeau Municipal Band to hold its twice-a-month evening rehearsals, it was the setting for its religious expression as well.<sup>55</sup> The courthouse served as the location of the Women's Home Mission Aid Society, reported in 1907 to be the "largest and most enthusiastic gathering of church women ever held in Cape Girardeau." Perhaps the meeting of the Methodist women in the courthouse came as no surprise since the courtroom was also serving as the temporary home of the English Methodist Church from May 5, 1907 until September 4, 1908 while the congregation constructed a new building.<sup>56</sup> In addition, the courthouse grounds were routinely used in summer as the location of union church services sponsored by the city's ministerial alliance.<sup>57</sup>

The courthouse and grounds also served a symbolic role in the lives of Cape Girardeau's citizens, providing a gathering place imbued with history and significance. On Decoration Day in 1907, for example, the Grand Army of the Republic, Sons of Veterans, and various women's organizations gathered at the courthouse before parading to Lorimier Cemetery to decorate the graves of the city's war dead.<sup>58</sup> The courthouse served this symbolic role well into the twentieth century, providing the focal point for marches and rallies, including one by the local chapter of the National Association of Colored People on Veterans Day in 1983.<sup>59</sup> As the symbolic center of the community, the courthouse grounds became a site for a variety of public memorials, including separate memorials to Cape Girardeau's Union and Confederate war dead, as well as for the city's Vietnam War veterans.

As one of the city's most significant public buildings aside from the courthouse, Cape Girardeau's Carnegie Library was built on the courthouse lawn in 1921 and opened its doors for public use on April 1, 1922. One of the last public libraries funded by the Carnegie Foundation in the United States, Cape Girardeau pledged to pay \$5,000 toward the cost of a building "to cost Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) complete and ready to occupy including indispensable permanent furniture and fixtures and architect's fee," as well as \$3,000 annually for ongoing operations and maintenance. In return, the Carnegie Foundation provided \$25,000. Although the

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<sup>54</sup> *Southeast Missourian*, March 2, 1907.

<sup>55</sup> *Southeast Missourian*, February 12, 1932; Shivelbine interview.

<sup>56</sup> *Southeast Missourian*, May 5, 1907, July 13, 1907, September 4, 1908.

<sup>57</sup> *Southeast Missourian*, June 2, 1908, July 3, 1932, July 8, 1934, August 26, 1934.

<sup>58</sup> *Southeast Missourian*, May 30, 1907.

<sup>59</sup> *Southeast Missourian*, May 30, 1983.

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Carnegie Foundation had stopped accepting proposals for new libraries after Andrew Carnegie's death in 1919, because Cape Girardeau had begun negotiations prior to World War I, the foundation was willing to consider the proposal in 1921 as "unfinished business." Cape's proposal was accepted by the foundation on April 21, 1921, and the city acted quickly to secure an appropriate site.<sup>60</sup> A lot on the corner of Themis and Lorimier across from the courthouse was first proposed, but the city council was concerned the Council of Women's Clubs, the organization raising the required matching funds, would not be able to raise enough money for the building, fixtures, and books, as well as the additional cost of acquiring the site. The library committee voted 5-4 to locate the building on the courthouse grounds, and a vote of the subscribers to the library fund confirmed the choice. The city council convened a special session June 25, 1921 to pass a resolution formally accepting the Carnegie Foundation grant and agreeing it would furnish "a suitable site," having decided earlier in the week to locate the building just south of the walkway leading to the courthouse on the site of the city's coal house on Lorimier Street, facing north toward the statue and fountain. The contract was let on August 27, 1921, and the building opened for public use the following April.<sup>61</sup> The Library quickly became an admired and much-used institution for the people of Cape Girardeau, and the need to expand the library through the construction of an annex was discussed as early as 1934.<sup>62</sup> An addition in 1959 provided much needed additional space and served the city's citizens until the library relocated to a new building in 1980.<sup>63</sup>

Over the years since its construction, the Cape Girardeau Court of Common Pleas has played an important role in the lives of the city's citizens. From politics to religion, from civic engagement to entertainment, the courthouse and its grounds have been a significant feature in the lives of Cape Girardeau's people for generations.

### Architectural Significance

The Cape Girardeau Court of Common Pleas is also significant for the strong Classical Revival details expressed in the 1888 alterations and for its association with local master builder Joseph Lansman, St. Louis architect Jerome B. Legg, and local architect John Boardman. The original

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<sup>60</sup> *Southeast Missourian*, January 27, 1921; February 14, 1921; May 2, 1921; letter from James Bertram, Secretary, Carnegie Corporation, dated April 21, 1921, quoted in "History of Carnegie Public Library," pamphlet (1922), History of the Cape Girardeau Public Library Scrapbook, Special Collections and Archives, Southeast Missouri State University.

<sup>61</sup> *Southeast Missourian*, May 2, 1921; June 14, 1921; June 18, 1921; "History of Carnegie Public Library;" undated newspaper clipping, History of the Cape Girardeau Public Library Scrapbook, Special Collections and Archives, Southeast Missouri State University.

<sup>62</sup> *Southeast Missourian*, November 26, 1934.

<sup>63</sup> <http://capelibrary.org/AboutTheLibrary/History.aspx>, accessed April 1, 2010.



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courthouse in Cape Girardeau, which forms the core of the central mass of the current building, was designed in a mid-nineteenth century vernacular style with strong Federal influences. Constructed by noted local builder Joseph Lansman, Cape Girardeau's simple, rectangular brick building reflects typical early courthouse design in Missouri from the 1820s through the 1860s.<sup>64</sup>

The Federal style was the first attempt by United States architects to express their independence from the old world's architectural designs and was popular on the East Coast from the 1780s through 1820. In a pattern typical of the vernacular migration of architectural style, the Federal style remained popular in rural Missouri long after its popularity waned in the more fashion-conscious Eastern Seaboard. In 1854, Cape Girardeau was still considered the frontier and on the edge of the West. As in many communities in Missouri, the people of Cape Girardeau still embraced the dignified classical simplicity of the Federal style as an appropriate statement of elegance, refinement, and civilization.<sup>65</sup> The key characteristics of the courthouse's initial Federal style appearance include strong bilateral symmetry, a smooth brick façade, boxed cornice with brick corbels suggestive of dentil molding below, a hipped roof, and post and lintel window construction.<sup>66</sup>

The architectural style of the courthouse is now most recognizably Classical Revival. This style was popular across the country for use in government buildings, especially courthouses. Many government buildings were constructed in a classical style or were enhanced by the use of

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<sup>64</sup> Marion Ohman, *Encyclopedia of Missouri Courthouses* (Columbia: University of Missouri: The Curators of the University of Missouri, 1981), Introduction; Marian Ohman, *Missouri's Counties, County Seats, and Courthouse Squares* (University of Missouri-Columbia: The Curators of the University of Missouri, 1983), 63; Denise Weiser, *Missouri Courthouses: Building Memories on the Square* (Virginia Beach, VA: The Donning Company Publishers, 2007), 9-11 and 27.

<sup>65</sup> Mark Gelernter, *A History of American Architecture; Buildings in their Cultural and Technological Context*, (London: University Press of New England, 1999), 108-11, 164; Howard Wight Marshall, *Vernacular Architecture in Rural and Small Town Missouri: An Introduction* (Columbia, MO: University Extension, University of Missouri-Columbia, 1994) (available at <http://missourifolkloresociety.truman.edu/marshall.html>, accessed December 13, 2009); Howard W. Marshall, *Folk Architecture in Little Dixie: A Regional Culture in Missouri* (Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 1981). Although dealing with Greek Revival rather than Federal Style architecture, an excellent book describing the vernacular migration of early classical styles in the United States, see: Robert Kent Sutton, *Americans Interpret the Parthenon: The Progression of Greek Revival Architecture from the East Coast to Oregon, 1800-1860* (Niwot, CO: University Press of Colorado, 1992).

<sup>66</sup> Blumenson, 20-21; and, Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984), 152-167.

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classical detailing, such as cupolas, columns or pilasters, pedimented porticos and decorative cornice lines. The rationale behind this classical adornment is to hint at democracy's Greek and Roman origins, and for that reason it was a very popular style for use in buildings such as the Cape Girardeau Court of Common Pleas.<sup>67</sup> It is the only government building in Cape Girardeau designed in the Classical Revival style and the only building in the city with a cupola.

The hiring of noted St. Louis architect Jerome B. Legg to enlarge and enhance the Cape Girardeau Court of Common Pleas in 1888 resulted in a classically inspired design that not only updated the mid-nineteenth century exterior appearance but gave the courthouse the look and feel of a modern seat of justice and government. In his design for the courthouse Legg included such Classical Revival features as the addition of a full height pedimented portico on the east elevation overlooking the historic commercial district and Mississippi riverfront, slightly subordinated symmetrical wings with post and lintel window construction mimicking the design of the windows on the original building, and a cupola.<sup>68</sup> The front portico features four Tuscan columns supporting a triangular pediment with a geometric design in the gable end. The entablature of the portico is decorated with a diaper cornice with roundel motif, which is repeated in a smaller scale along the building's cornice. The cupola that tops the roof was also added by Legg in 1888 and despite numerous sources suggesting it was moved from the St. Charles Hotel in the downtown commercial district, photographic evidence proves otherwise.<sup>69</sup> The cupola has elements of Romanesque Revival styling, with grouped arched windows and repeated round arch motif.<sup>70</sup> The entablature supporting the cupola has a diapered cornice with chevron designs. Taken together, these classical design features give the Cape Girardeau Court of Common Pleas building a dignified and majestic presence which it retains to this day.

The Cape Girardeau Common Pleas Courthouse is significant not only as an excellent example of Classical Revival architecture but for its association with three important builders and architects. The original building was designed and constructed by noted local builder Joseph Lansman in 1854. In 1888, the courthouse was altered to its current style by the distinguished St. Louis architect, Jerome B. Legg. Finally, in 1959, an addition designed by prominent local architect John Boardman extended the rear of the courthouse thirty feet to the west. John

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<sup>67</sup> Gelernter, 130-139.

<sup>68</sup> Blumenson, 22-23; Baker, 56-57, 104-105; and, McAlester, 168-175, 343-353.

<sup>69</sup> Snider and Collins, 226, is cited as the reference by most sources that support this claim.

However, a photograph showing both the cupola on the St. Charles and the cupola on the courthouse can be found in John W. Emerson, "Grant's Life in the West and His Mississippi Valley Campaigns," *Midland Monthly*, IX, 3 (Mar. 1898), 219-38, effectively disproving this myth.

<sup>70</sup> Blumenson, 42-43; and Baker, 94-95.

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Boardman was also responsible for the addition in that same year to the front of the Carnegie Library, located on the courthouse grounds.

The construction of the courthouse in 1854 came at a time in Cape Girardeau's history when the town's population had increased as a result of a large German immigration.<sup>71</sup> Immigrants to Missouri brought with them many traditions and methods of building construction that focused around simple tools and materials such as fieldstone and hand-made bricks, and the immigrants working in the building trades in Cape Girardeau were no exception.<sup>72</sup>

Perhaps the most significant among the immigrant German tradesman in Cape Girardeau was the local builder and stonemason Joseph Lansman, the person responsible for constructing the initial Court of Common Pleas building.<sup>73</sup> Born in 1812 in the Alsace-Lorraine territory in the heart of Western Europe with the name Joseph Hoche, Lansman learned the skill of stonemasonry in Germany and fled his home country for the United States in order to avoid conscription into the German Army. After his arrival in Cape Girardeau, most likely in 1837, Lansman began building several brick houses and buildings for the Vicentians. This led to many other important contracts, including the one for the Cape Girardeau Court of Common Pleas. He married Ann Carolina Cordell in 1842 and together they had twelve children.<sup>74</sup> Lansman died in 1895 at the age of 82.<sup>75</sup>

Joseph Lansman is credited with the construction of at least eighteen prominent structures in the Cape Girardeau area, some of which serve Cape Girardeau citizens as icons of the city's

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<sup>71</sup> Phillip Thomason, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Cape Girardeau, Missouri." Multiple Property Listing, National Register of Historic Places, listed July 20, 2000: Section E, 4-6; Neumeyer, Nickell, and Rhodes, 26-27, Snider and Collins, 38.

<sup>72</sup> Ohman, *Encyclopedia of Missouri Courthouses*, Introduction; Sharon Sanders and Diana Bryant, "'Our Dear Brother Joseph': The Life of Joseph Lansman (Cape Girardeau County Genealogical Society); Scott Cross, "Early German Vernacular Cottages in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, 1840-1865," November 17, 1995, manuscript in author's possession; Scott Cross and Allen Tatman, "House at 323 Themis Street," National Register of Historic Places, listed 06/27/97; Julie Ann LaMouria, "Vasterling, Julius, Building," National Register of Historic Places, listed 6/17/2009).

<sup>73</sup> Lansman's name has also been found in other sources as *Lansmon* but is consistently used throughout this nomination as Lansman. Diana Bryant and Sharon Sanders use the Lansman spelling in "*Our Dear Brother Joseph*" as their preferred spelling. In addition, Lansman is how it is spelled on his tombstone, and so even though he used both spellings interchangeably during his life, we will use Lansman here.

<sup>74</sup> Bryant and Sanders, 10-11.

<sup>75</sup> *Ibid.*, 17.

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traditional river heritage even today. In addition to the Cape Girardeau Court of Common Pleas, Lansman's most significant lost and surviving architectural contributions to Cape Girardeau and the region include: St. Vincent's College (Cape Girardeau, NR 09/30/2005), St. Charles Hotel (Cape Girardeau, c. 1838, demolished 1967), St. Mary's Catholic Church (c. 1868, Cape Girardeau), Cape Girardeau County Courthouse (Jackson, Missouri, built c. 1871, demolished 1909), the James Reynolds House (Cape Girardeau, NR 10/13/1985), Third District Normal School (Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau, c. 1874, burned 1902.), the Burfordville Covered Bridge (Burfordville, Missouri, NR 5/19/1970), Bollinger Mill (Burfordville, Missouri, NR 5/27/1971), and numerous residences in the Cape Girardeau and Perryville area.<sup>76</sup>

The 1888 renovation of the courthouse was designed by Jerome B. Legg, an architect known for creating public and residential buildings throughout Southeast Missouri and the state. Legg was born in Schuyler County, IL around 1838 and came to St. Louis in 1864 where he attended Jones Commercial College. Legg worked for St. Louis architect George Barnett who encouraged Legg to study architecture. Within four years of coming to St. Louis, Legg had started his long and significant career as an architect. His first major job was superintending the construction of the Thomas Dixon-designed Centenary Methodist Episcopal Church (NR 01/16/1997).<sup>77</sup>

By 1888, when he received the commission for the remodeling of the Cape Girardeau Court of Common Pleas, Legg had already made a name for himself in Missouri and neighboring states. His 1884 Exposition and Music Hall in St. Louis was heralded as "one of the largest and grandest in the nation."<sup>78</sup> Legg had also designed several prominent buildings for the state of Missouri and several Missouri counties. Significant works, completed by 1888, included: remodeling of the Missouri State Capitol (1882), and courthouses in St. Francois (1885) and Ste. Genevieve (1885).<sup>79</sup> Legg also designed numerous religious, educational, manufacturing and

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<sup>76</sup> *Ibid.*, 46-151; Alan Higgins, "Joseph Lansman," in *How the City of Roses Bloomed: the History of the Built Environment in Cape Girardeau*, Southeast Missouri State University, HP200, class project, Spring 2005, bound copy in possession of author.

<sup>77</sup> L. Illers, S.K. Parker, T. Foley, and S. Hoffman, "Harrison, William Henry and Lilla Luce House," National Register of Historic Places, listed 12/06/05; and, Carolyn Hewes Toft. St. Louis Architect Biographies "Jerome Bibb Legg." [http://www.landmarks-stl.org/architects/bio/jerome\\_bibb\\_legg\\_1838\\_19/](http://www.landmarks-stl.org/architects/bio/jerome_bibb_legg_1838_19/) (Accessed November 22, 2009); John Albury Bryan, "Outstanding Architects in St. Louis between 1804 and 1904," *Missouri Historical Review* 28 (January 1934), 88; Joseph A. Dacus and James W. Buel, *A tour of St. Louis, or, the Inside Life of a Great City* (St. Louis: Western Publishing Co., Jones & Griffin, 1878), 208-209.

<sup>78</sup> Toft; Dacus and Buel, 208-209.

<sup>79</sup> Bryan, 88; Ohman, *Encyclopedia of Missouri Courthouses*, n.p. Legg later designed four other courthouses in Missouri: Shelby County (1891), Gasconade County (1899), Mississippi County

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residential buildings in Missouri. Several buildings designed by Legg are individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places. These include Henderson Hall in Lewis County, MO (listed 10/2/1978); Finke Opera House, Moniteau County, MO (listed 3/22/2004); Oliver-Leming House in Cape Girardeau County, MO (listed 9/12/1980); Harrison, William Henry and Lilla Luce House, Cape Girardeau County, MO (listed 12/06/2005); Moore House, Mississippi County, MO (listed 9/18/1980) and the Ballard County Courthouse in Wickliffe, KY (listed 2/27/1980). Several of Legg's residential and institutional designs are also listed as part of National Register listed historic districts.

In addition to the Court of Common Pleas addition, Harrison House (constructed 1897) and the Oliver-Leming House (constructed 1898-99), Legg's work can also be found on the Southeast Missouri State University campus where he designed Academic Hall (c. 1905) and the Science and Art buildings (c. 1902).

The most recent architect to make exterior changes to the Court of Common Pleas was prominent local architect John Boardman. Boardman received the commission to design a 30 foot annex on the rear of the courthouse in 1959. Born October 10, 1926 in Sikeston, Missouri, Boardman received his bachelor's degree in Architectural Engineering from Iowa State University, and is responsible for designing over 100 buildings in Cape Girardeau and its surrounding area.<sup>80</sup>

Boardman was well known as both a modernist architect, with several innovative designs to his credit, as well as an advocate for reusing historic buildings. In addition to his many midcentury modern ranch style houses, Boardman designed several modern homes in Cape Girardeau. A notable example built in the mid-1970s, the Dr. C.R. Talbert home, was modeled after the Parthenon to allow the owners to have their home built around an indoor pool. Adorned with 22 Doric columns on three sides and a triangular pediment, the home was classical yet modern. The building was supported with floor-to-ceiling angled steel beams, allowing for few interior walls and a great deal of open space.<sup>81</sup> Other modernist designs by Boardman in Cape Girardeau include the Carnegie Library addition (1959) and the Cape GMC-Pontiac building (1965).<sup>82</sup>

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(1899), and St. Charles County (1901).

<sup>80</sup> Kim Roberts, "John Boardman," in *How the City of Roses Bloomed: the History of the Built Environment in Cape Girardeau*, HP200 class project, Spring 2005, bound copy in possession of author; *Southeast Missourian*, January 24, 1959, December 21, 1999.

<sup>81</sup> Arts Council of Southeast Missouri, "The John L.E. Boardman Architectural Tour of Homes & Businesses," May 5, 2002.

<sup>82</sup> *Southeast Missourian*, January 24, 1959, December 21, 1999.

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Boardman is perhaps best known for his work with historic buildings and his dedication to the revitalization of Cape Girardeau's downtown. In fact, Boardman worked on over thirty buildings in the downtown area alone between 1986 and his death in 1999, including exterior renovations of 27 N. Main, 117 N. Main and 34 N. Main. His interior renovations allowed for the continued use of several noncontributing and the following contributing buildings in the three downtown National Register districts: 112-114 N. Main, 119-121 N. Main, 120 N. Main, 132-134 N. Main (Cape Girardeau Commercial Historic District, listed 7/20/00); 19 N. Water (Warehouse Row Historic District, listed 12/4/04); 127 N. Water (Cape Girardeau Commercial Historic District, Boundary Increase II, listed 8/29/08); 27 N. Main, 221 Independence (Main-Spanish Commercial Historic District, listed 12-30-08); and 7-15 S. Spanish (individually listed, 7/22/94).<sup>83</sup>

Boardman was not only involved in rehabilitating the downtown buildings owned by his clients, but he made a personal commitment to invest in downtown as well. Boardman called his decision to live and work in the historic area of the city "a vote of confidence in the downtown area."<sup>84</sup> He purchased and renovated several historic buildings in downtown Cape Girardeau over the years, including a Missouri German Vernacular home at 615 Bellevue which served as his personal residence from 1978 to 1982. He was also responsible for purchasing and rehabilitating 119 Independence, a two-part commercial block building. Referring to this building, his wife, Evelyn Boardman, commented that "John had a reason for buying each of the properties that he restored, but he was usually the only one who could see the logic of his intent. The catalyst for renovating 119 Independence was that it just sat there in need of help. Every time John walked past the building, he saw a new challenge. My initial reaction to this venture was, 'You're crazy!!!' In drinking a toast to the completed project a year later, I modified my words to, 'You're a crazy genius!!!'"<sup>85</sup> Although his treatment modernized this building to the point where it is considered a noncontributing resource in the historic district, his significance derives from the fact that he adaptively used the building at a time when many people in Cape Girardeau's development community were advocating for such buildings to be torn down. Boardman's dedication to the downtown and its revitalization is also evidenced by his conversion of the upstairs of 31 North Main into upper floor housing, and the rear addition to 221 Independence for downtown housing, (all three listed 12/30/08, Main-Spanish Commercial Historic District) many years before such conversions became popular.<sup>86</sup>

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<sup>83</sup> John L.E. Boardman blueprints, private collection, David Hutson, Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

<sup>84</sup> *Southeast Missourian*, December 21, 1999.

<sup>85</sup> "The John L.E. Boardman Architectural Tour of Homes & Businesses."

<sup>86</sup> Boardman blueprint collection; David Huston, owner 31 N. Main, personal recollection during telephone conversation with Steven Hoffman, November 24, 2009.

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John Boardman's significance to the community is evident in the variety of ways in which he has been honored since his death in December 1999. In 2002, the Downtown Merchants Association named the public pavilion designed by Boardman in 1991 and built in the downtown parking lot at the corner of Independence and Main after him. They also endowed a scholarship in his honor at Southeast Missouri State University.<sup>87</sup> Old Town Cape, the city's Main Street organization, named its annual award for successful commercial rehabilitation according to the Secretary of Interior's Standards "The John Boardman Excellence in Rehabilitation Award."<sup>88</sup> No other architect in recent memory has gained the stature, respect and local significance achieved by John Boardman. Throughout his more than forty-year career as a practicing architect and tireless advocate for the adaptive use of historic buildings, John Boardman brought humor, personality and zeal to the ongoing effort to revitalize downtown Cape Girardeau and is universally recognized in the community as the most significant architect in Cape Girardeau in the second half of the twentieth century.

### Conclusion

The Cape Girardeau Court of Common Pleas is locally significant in numerous ways. As the only remaining functioning common pleas court in the state, it serves to remind us of both the centrality of the law to the citizens of Missouri and the ways in which our court system has changed over the years. From its importance as the site of military government during the Civil War, to its role as a community gathering place, the symbolic value of the courthouse resonated with Cape Girardeau's residents from the date of its construction to the present day. Whether as a political stage for national, state or local government leaders, or as a civic, religious or purely social venue for the citizens of Cape Girardeau, the Court of Common Pleas courthouse has played a central role in the life of the community for 155 years. In addition, the classical details of the courthouse building express well the Classical Revival style of the 1888 additions, and its association with Joseph Lansman, J.B. Legg and John Boardman make it a truly unique element of Cape Girardeau's built environment. Arguably no other building still standing in Cape

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<sup>87</sup> *Southeast Missourian*, February 25, 2002 still refers to pavilion as "downtown pavilion." Letter to editor by C.P. McGinty, June 24, 2002 refers to pavilion as "John Boardman Pavilion." City of Cape Girardeau officially accepted ownership of the "Boardman Pavilion" from the Downtown Merchants Association on September 7, 2004, *Southeast Missourian*, 9/8/2004.

<sup>88</sup> *Southeast Missourian*, March 30, 2005.

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Girardeau has the long-standing and wide-ranging local significance of the Cape Girardeau Court of Common Pleas courthouse.



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*The Kansas City Star*, September 11, 1906.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Cape Girardeau Court of Common Pleas  
Cape Girardeau County, Missouri

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### Photo Log

Information is the same for all the photographs:  
Cape Girardeau Court of Common Pleas  
44 North Lorimier Street  
Cape Girardeau, Cape Girardeau County, Missouri

Photographer: Dr. Steven J. Hoffman  
Date: Photographs 1-7 and 11-14, November 14, 2009  
Photographs 8-10 and 15, December 12, 2009  
Data on file: Dr. Steven J. Hoffman  
Historic Preservation Program  
Southeast Missouri State University  
Department of History, Mail Stop 2960  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

- 1) Courthouse, from foot of stairs on Spanish Street, showing terraces, mature trees and historic lighting, looking west.
- 2) Courthouse, from stairs, looking west.
- 3) Courthouse, from lawn, looking northwest.
- 4) Detail of portico pediment and cornice, looking northwest.
- 5) Courthouse, looking southeast.
- 6) Courthouse, looking northeast.
- 7) Detail of 1854 cornice, and 1888 cornice and cupola, looking northeast.
- 8) Bandstand, looking east (note two memorial markers on either side of wooden stairs).
- 9) Fountain and statue, looking east.
- 10) Sundial (note bandstand, courthouse sign, and two noncontributing police memorials in background), facing east.
- 11) Courthouse grounds, including Vietnam Veterans and Confederate Memorial, looking southeast.
- 12) Courthouse Annex (Carnegie Library), looking southeast.
- 13) Courthouse Annex (Carnegie Library), looking northeast
- 14) Courthouse Annex (Carnegie Library), looking west.
- 15) Courthouse Annex (Carnegie Library), looking southwest.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Cape Girardeau Court of Common Pleas  
Cape Girardeau County, Missouri

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### Index of Figures:

Figure 1: Courthouse Plan, First Floor

Figure 2: Courthouse Plan, Second Floor

Figure 3: Satellite Map, courthouse grounds

Figure 4: Boundary map, Courthouse grounds

Figure 5: Site map, Courthouse and grounds



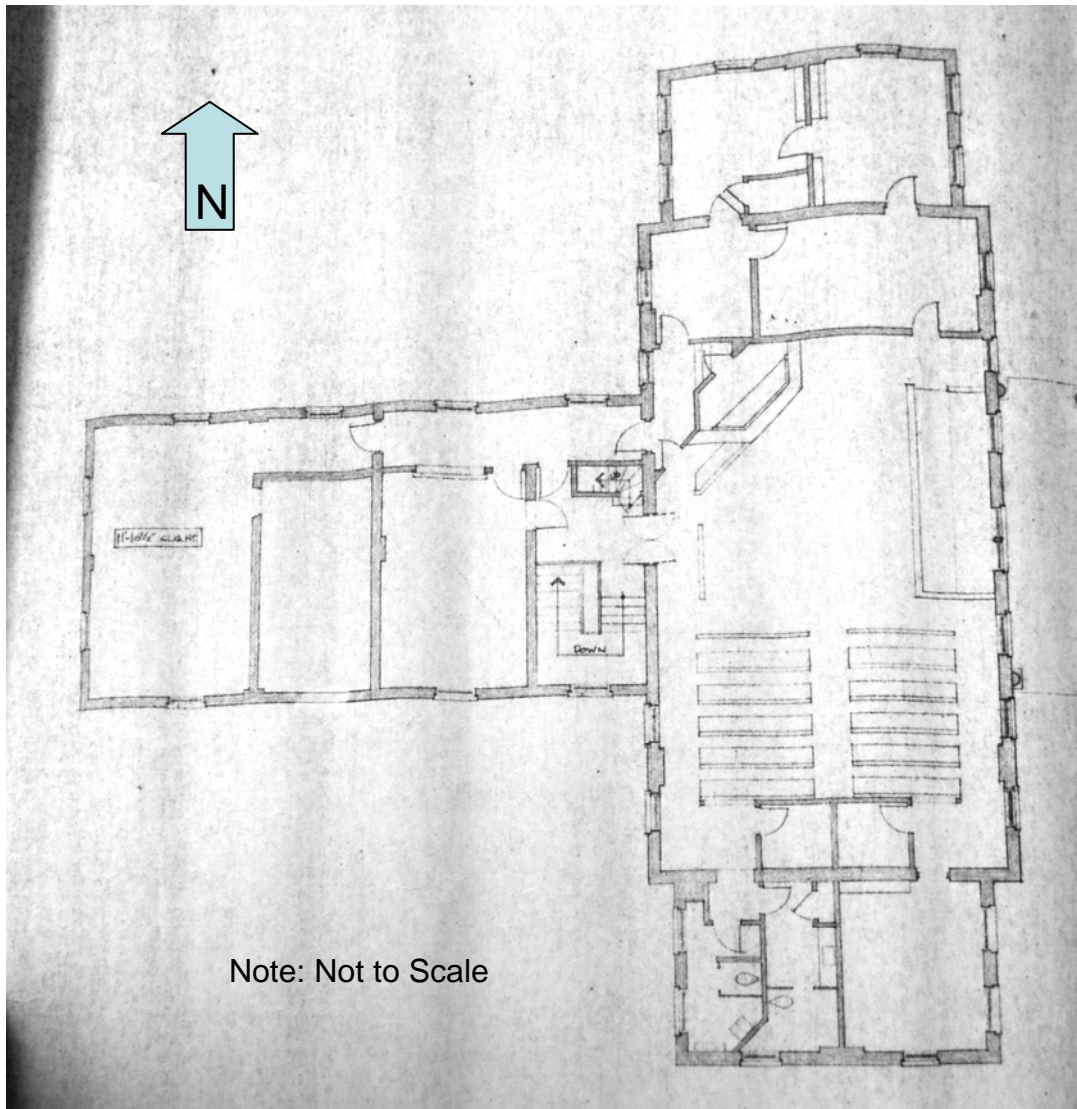
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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Cape Girardeau Court of Common Pleas  
Cape Girardeau County, Missouri

Figure 2



Cape Girardeau Court of Common Pleas  
Plan, Second Floor

Source: Thomas C. Holhouser, architect, March 6, 1978. Court of Common Pleas blueprint collection, Cape Girardeau County Archive Center, Jackson, Missouri.



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Cape Girardeau Court of Common Pleas  
Cape Girardeau County, Missouri

Figure 3



Satellite Map, Courthouse Grounds

Source: Google Maps, <http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&tab=wl> (accessed December 13, 2009).

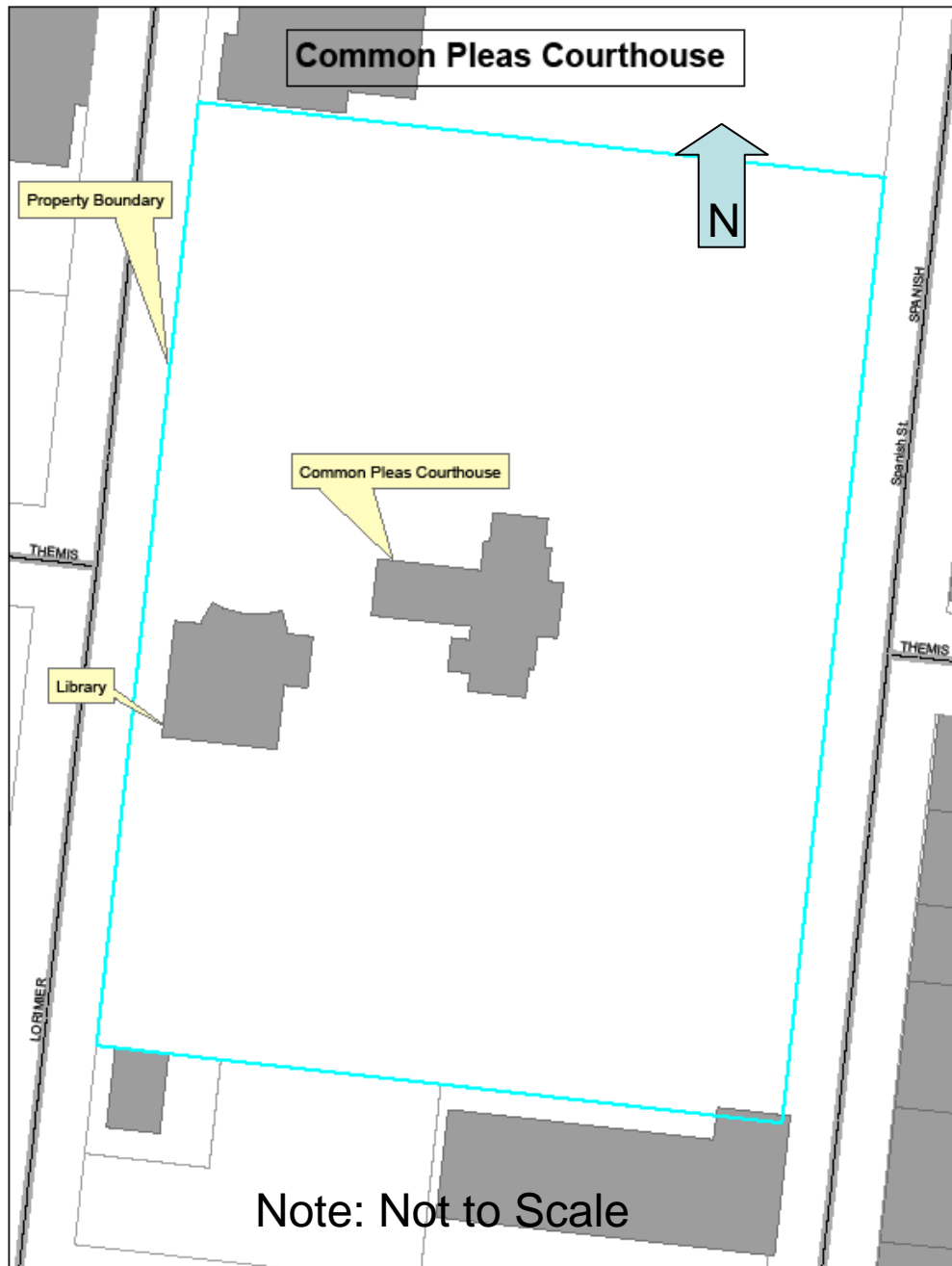
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Cape Girardeau Court of Common Pleas  
Cape Girardeau County, Missouri

Figure 4



Boundary Map, Courthouse Grounds

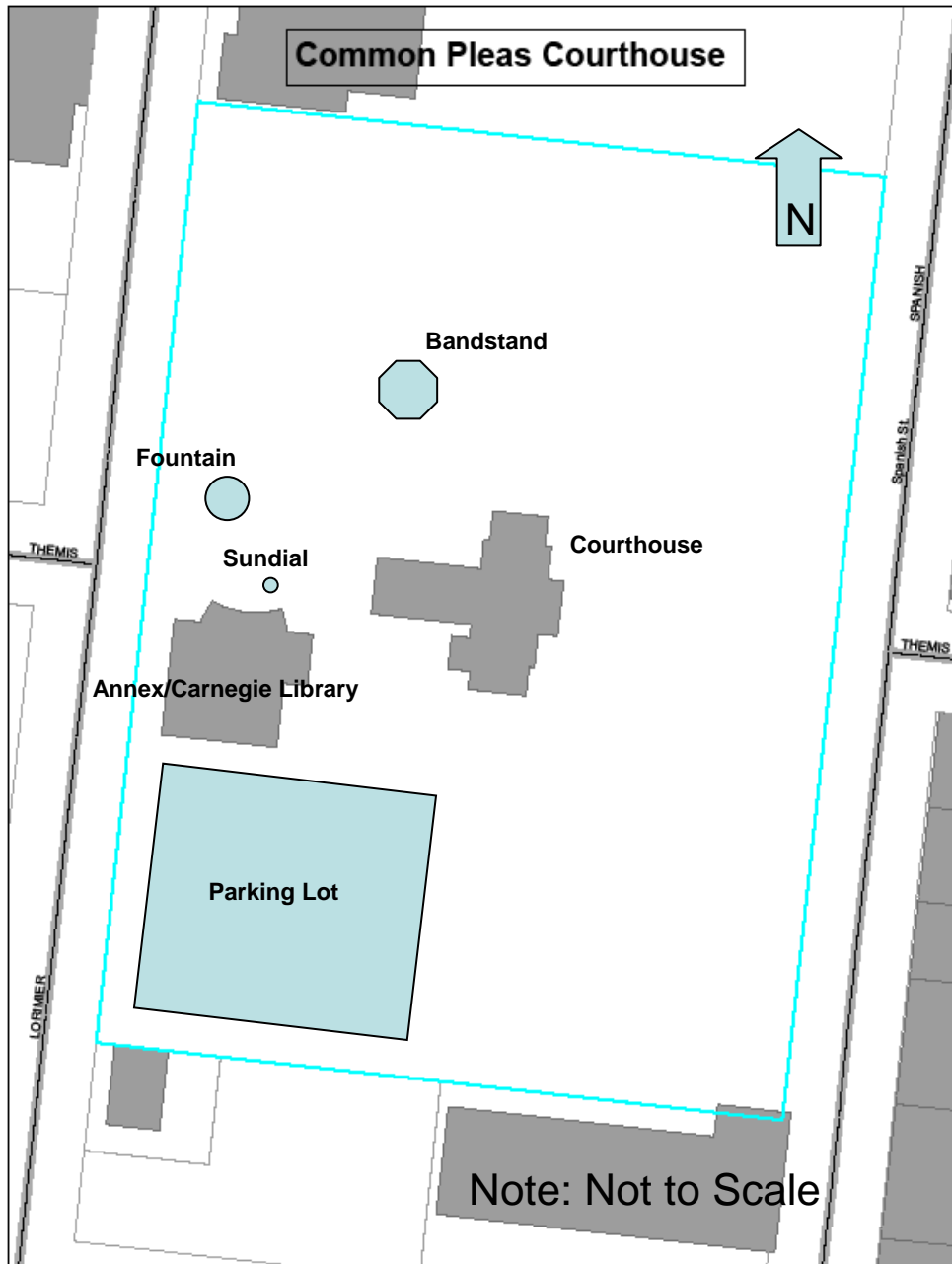
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Cape Girardeau Court of Common Pleas  
Cape Girardeau County, Missouri

Figure 5



Site Map, Courthouse and Grounds

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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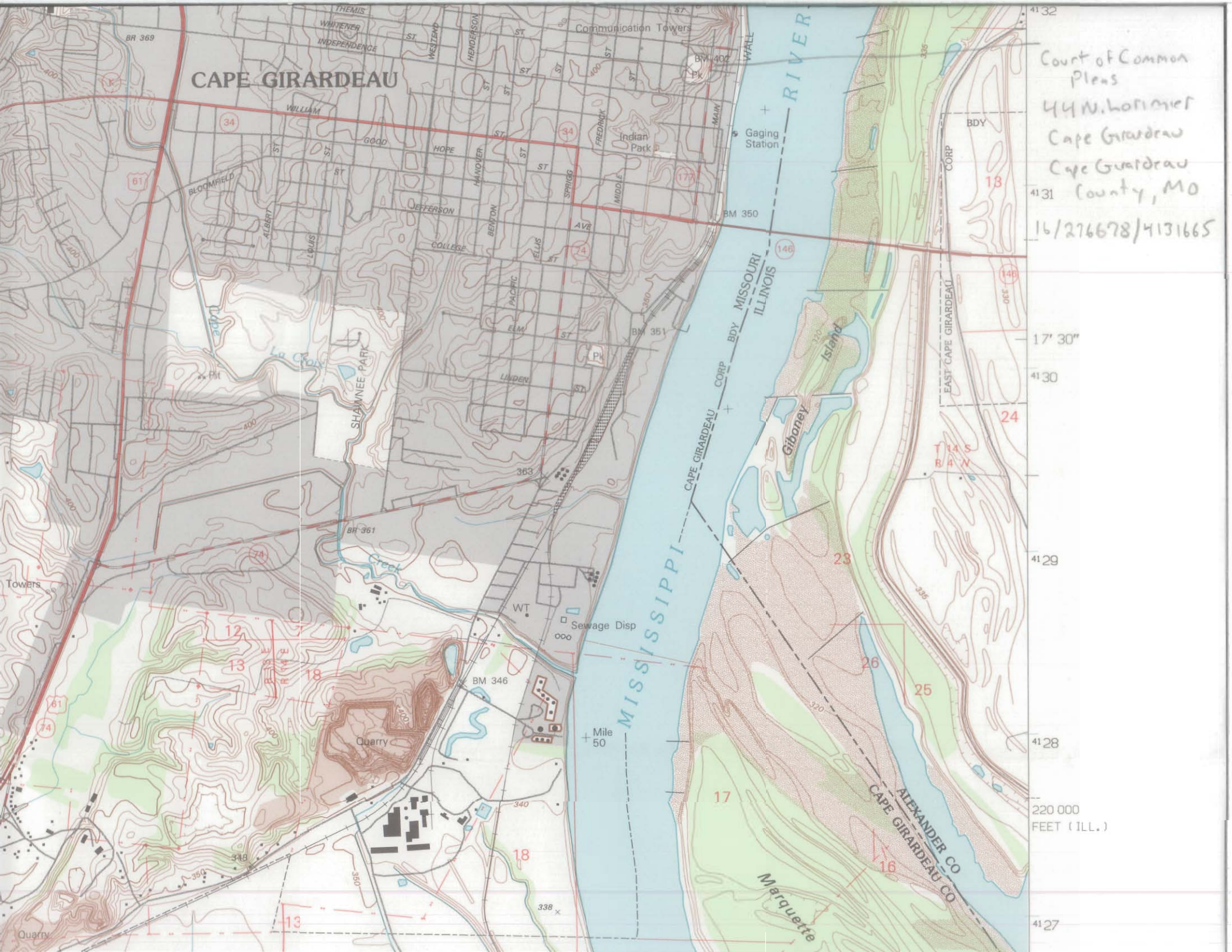
Cape Girardeau Court of Common Pleas  
Cape Girardeau County, Missouri

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### Property Owners

City of Cape Girardeau  
Attn: Harry Rediger, Mayor  
401 Independence Street  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63703  
(573) 339-6320 (City Manager's Office)

Cape Girardeau County Commission  
Attn: Donna Oldham, Assistant to the County Commission  
#1 Barton Square  
Jackson, MO 63755  
(573) 243-1052



**CAPE GIRARDEAU**

Court of Common  
Plens  
44 N. Harrison  
Cape Girardeau  
Cape Girardeau  
County, MO  
16/276678/4131665

4132  
4131  
17' 30"  
4130  
4129  
4128  
220 000  
FEET ( ILL. )  
4127

BR 369

61

61

74

318

350

360

368

380

386

390

394

398

402

406

410

414

418

422

426

430

434

438

442

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974

978

982

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990

994

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1006

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1014

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COMMON PLEAS  
COURTHOUSE

- ▶ CIRCUIT CLERK OFFICE
- ▶ CIRCUIT COURT
- ▶ SMALL CLAIMS
- ▶ MOTOR REGISTRATION
- ▶ COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR
- ▶ ASSESSOR OFFICE
- ▶ JAIL/INMATE OFFICE











COMMON PLEAS  
COURTHOUSE



COMMON PLEAS  
COURTHOUSE















WILMINGTON