

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Missouri	
COUNTY: Lafayette	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Lafayette County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Lafayette County Courthouse

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Public Square

CITY OR TOWN:
Lexington

STATE Missouri	CODE 64067	COUNTY: Lafayette	CODE 107
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY <i>(Check One)</i>	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE <i>(Check One or More as Appropriate)</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>(Specify)</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments County Offices			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Lafayette County

STREET AND NUMBER:
Lafayette County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Lexington

STATE: Missouri	CODE 64067	COUNTY: Lafayette	CODE 24
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Office of Recorder of Deeds, Lafayette County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Public Square

CITY OR TOWN:
Lexington

STATE: Missouri	CODE 64067	COUNTY: Lafayette	CODE 24
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue

DATE OF SURVEY: **1963** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
State Historical Society of Missouri

STREET AND NUMBER:
Corner, Hitt and Lowry streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Columbia

STATE: Missouri	CODE 65201	COUNTY: Lafayette	CODE 24
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Missouri
COUNTY: Lafayette
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Lafayette County Courthouse in Lexington, Missouri, designed by a local architect, William Daugherty, is a rectangular plan, two-story, white-painted brick building of "Classic Revival" design. Based on the classical temple form, it is pseudo-peripteral with a tetrastyle portico, a simple-ridge roof and a later wooden cupola and two-story brick addition. Located on the Lexington city square, it faces north on Main Street.

EXTERIOR

The North facade of the main structure is symmetrical with a large double-story portico supported by four non-fluted, ionic-order columns made of large sandstone drums hauled to the site from a quarry in Warrensburg. (Lexington Advertiser-News, March 5, 1962.) They are distributed with equal intercolumniation along the entire front of the porch. The portico is topped with a pediment and cornice with modillions and dentils which extends around the entire building. The front entranceway is centered at the first story level and is flanked by one equidistant window to each side. Three evenly spaced windows repeat this arrangement at the second story level.

The doorway has double doors with two transoms arranged one above the other and is surrounded by two pilasters, one to either side, which support an undecorated mock entablature.

The windows were originally double hung sash with six over six panes, but now have been replaced with modern, aluminum framed hopper windows. The windows still retain their simple lintels and sills.

Four large brick pilasters rising the entire height of the facade are placed in equal alternation with the windows. This system of alternating the pilasters and windows continues along both sides of the courthouse. The rear of the building is also symmetrically arranged. The central one-third of the south end of the building is extended about three feet to create a small two story rectangular bay. A window pierces the bay at both the first and second story levels of its east and west sides. A window is also placed at the first story level of the south end of the bay flanked by one equidistant window to either side. The same arrangement is repeated at the second story level, and the system of alternating pilasters and windows is employed.

The structure supports a common pitched roof with sheet metal roofing. Five brick fireplace chimney stacks extend above the roof line on both the east and west sides, and a cupola with a clock and bell tops the portico.

William Duagherty's plans for the courthouse did not include the cupola. It was added to the design later when the courthouse was already under construction. (County Court Record, Book # 6, Lafayette County, p 115.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Lafayette County Courthouse in Lexington, Missouri, is significant as a fine example of antebellum architecture of the "Classic Revival" design. It has additional significance as one of the oldest continually used courthouses in the state of Missouri.

The original plans for the courthouse exhibit some of the purest American Classic Revival thought in Missouri. In design, the structure cautiously remains within the established rules of classical-temple form. There is a portico across the entire front and a roof ridge running from front to back. The roof is low of pitch and originally void of any projections. All the windows and doors are correctly trabeated. The arch, which has no place in Greek-temple architecture, is carefully avoided. The wall surfaces are as smooth as brick allows and the structure is painted the traditional white.

The present Lafayette County Courthouse is the third such structure constructed by the county, yet it is one of the oldest continually used courthouses in the state. Only the center section of the Jackson County Courthouse in Independence, Missouri, is older. The first courthouse at Lexington, built in 1825, served the county for only a short period of years. Because of its poor construction, the County Court replaced this structure in 1832. With the movement of Lexington's commercial and residential districts away from the original townsite towards the Missouri River in the 1840's, the county decided to move the site of the courthouse to the new center of the town's activity. (William H. Chiles, History of Lafayette County, 1928 edition; History of Lafayette County, Mo., 1881, p. 210.)

The County Court, meeting on March 15, 1847, ordered that "a New Court-House be erected on the public square in the city of Lexington... and that Silas Silver, John Carton and Robert Aull be appointed Commissioners on the part of the county to contract for and superintend the building of the same." (County Court Record, Book # 6, Lafayette County, p. 92.) The Commissioner selected the plans of William Daugherty, a local architect, and construction of the \$12,000 structure began promptly. In October, 1847 the Lafayette County Court

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Chiles, William H. History of Lafayette County. Lexington: Privately Printed, 1928.
2. History of Lafayette County, Mo. St. Louis: Missouri Historical Co., 1881.
3. Lafayette County Court Record Books. Number 6 (1847), Number 25 (1895).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39 ° 11 ' 06 "	93 ° 52 ' 49 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than ten

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
H. Roger Grant, Ph.D., Research Historian

ORGANIZATION: Missouri State Park Board DATE: June 19, 1970
State Historical Survey and Planning Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building

CITY OR TOWN: Jefferson City STATE: Missouri 65101 CODE: 24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Joseph Jaeger, Jr.

Title: Director, Missouri State Park Board, and Missouri State Liaison Officer

Date: _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Lafayette	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7.

LAFAYETTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

It is clapboarded wood and consists of three levels. The lower level which now houses the mechanism for operating the cupola's clock and bell is essentially square in design but is given an octagonal feeling by the placement of pilasters at each of its four corners. This same system is continued at the second level where the octagonal sense is subtly increased. The cupola's second portion is smaller in area than the one below it, and instead of having the size of both the walls and the pilasters equally reduced, only the walls are significantly narrowed, thus de-emphasizing the squareness of the form. Each of the second level's four walls, which originally contained a narrow shuttered window flanked by a small ionic pilaster on each side, now shows a face of the clock which was installed in the tower by the citizens of Lexington in 1886.

The uppermost level is a strictly octagonal base with an octagonal domical vault, roofed with sheet metal. It encloses the original bell.

The courthouse was originally surrounded by a stone and iron fence, but it was ordered torn down and the stones were sold in 1884. (County Court Record, Book # 21, Lafayette County, p. 200.)

INTERIOR

Originally the first and second floors of the courthouse were almost identical in plan with a central hall with offices to each side at the front of the building and a large courtroom of north/south orientation at the rear, the judge's bench being placed in front of the small bay in the back wall of the building. (Lexington Advertiser-News, March 5, 1962.) Through a series of repairs, additions and reconstructions in 1895, 1939, and 1968 respectively, this distribution of space has been greatly altered, particularly in the area of the two courtrooms.

The original courtroom on the first floor is now divided into three smaller rooms, a county court, the County Clerk's Office and a storage vault, but vestiges of the original room still remain. The room has its original stamped metal ceiling with its borders curving to the walls, and also its original wood wainscoting, although the fine painted border that once existed above the wainscot has disappeared.

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LAFAYETTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The doors are flanked by a pilaster to either side supporting a simple entablature, an interior reflection of the main exterior entranceway. The old half-circular courtroom rail is still standing in the County Clerk's Office, and the semicircular walnut table made to fit it is now at the Anderson House, not far from the Courthouse. Additional pieces of the original walnut courtroom furniture remain scattered throughout the building.

The second level courtroom is still used for its original purpose but has been totally refurbished. The room has been reduced in size and the orientation of the court has been changed to an east/west direction. The original mansard ceiling of tin is covered with acoustical tile and the old walls and doorways have been replaced.

A dog-leg stair to the left of the front central hall connects the two floors.

ADDITIONS

In 1854 a separate office building was erected on the east lawn of the courthouse. It was a single story brick building that reflected the architecture of the main structure in a small central portico supported by columns and decorated with engaged pilasters. At the turn of the century, this building was remodeled into a two story structure, and in 1939 an addition was constructed on the rear of the building and connected to the courthouse. At this time the entire exterior of the building was reworked to copy the Classic Revival style of the courthouse and appear as a more integrated part of it.

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8.

LAFAYETTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

awarded a \$840 contract to Elijah Littlejohn and Alexander McHaddin for the building of a cupola on the newly completed courthouse. (County Court Record, Book # 6, Lafayette County, p. 115.)

The Lafayette County Courthouse is well known for a cannon ball lodged in one of the large columns of the building's north side. This occurred during the Battle of Lexington which was fought between Federal and Missouri State Guard forces on September 18-20, 1861. But more importantly, the courthouse is known throughout Missouri for its distinctive architecture and age.

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STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

9.

LAFAYETTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

4. Tallmadge, T.E. The Story of Architecture in America.
New York: n.d.
5. Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780. Cambridge,
Massachusetts: 1969.

LAFAYETTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

COUNTY: Lafayette
LOCATION: Public Square, Lexington, Mo. 64067
OWNER: Lafayette County
ADDRESS: Lafayette County Courthouse, Lexington, Mo.
DATE APPROVED BY A.C.: 03-21-70
DATE SENT TO JEFF. CITY: 06-24-70
DATE SENT TO D.C.: 06-29-70
DATE OF REC. IN D.C.: 07-06-70
DATE PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER: 09-22-70
DATE AWARDED CERTIFICATE
(AND PRESENTOR): ca. 11-21-72
William Aull, III - Chairman, Advisory Council
DATE FILE REVIEWED:

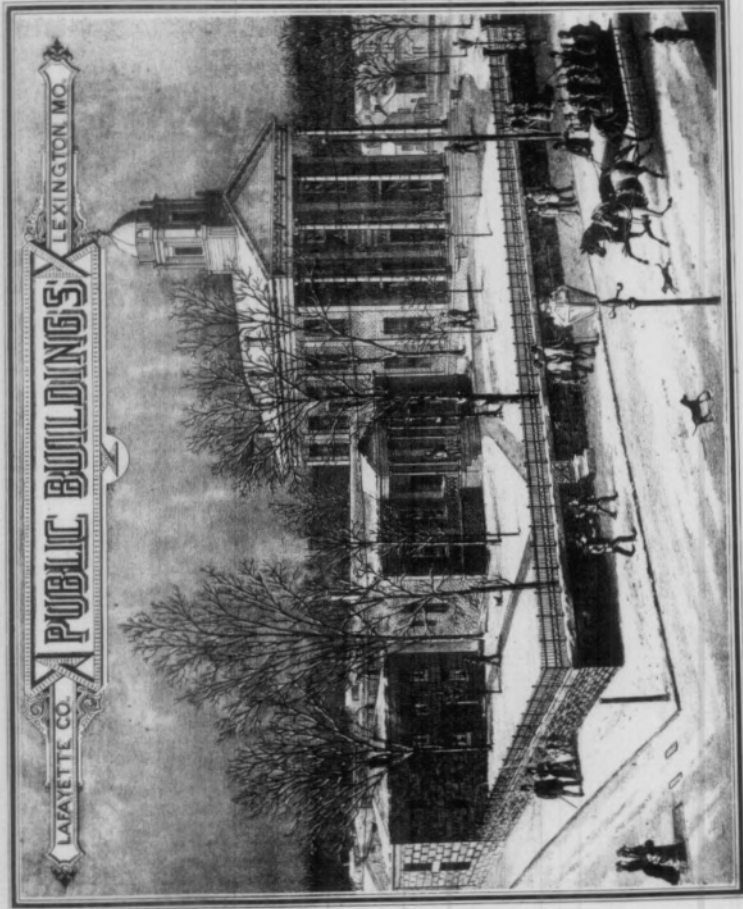
The Lafayette County Courthouse is significant as a fine example of antebellum architecture of the "Classic Revival" design. It has additional significance as one of the oldest continuously used courthouses in the state of Missouri.

Name of Site: Lafayette County Courthouse
Site Number: _____ Lexington, Mo.
Photographer: M.P. McCue ca. 1847
Date of Photo: Oct. 31, 1968
View of Photo: view from NW
Neg. Size: _____

LAFAYETTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE



Name of Site: Lafayette County Courthouse
Site Number: _____
Photographer: Sheila Hancock
Date of Photo: April 1978
View of Photo: NE → SW
Neg. Size: Photocopy



Name of Site: ~~Lafayette~~ Lafayette County Courthouse
Site Number: _____
Photographer: H. R. Grant
Date of Photo: April 1970
View of Photo: NE → SW
Neg. Size: _____



BATTLE
of
LEXINGTON
SEPT. 18-19-20 1861

Zacharyville County Courthouse

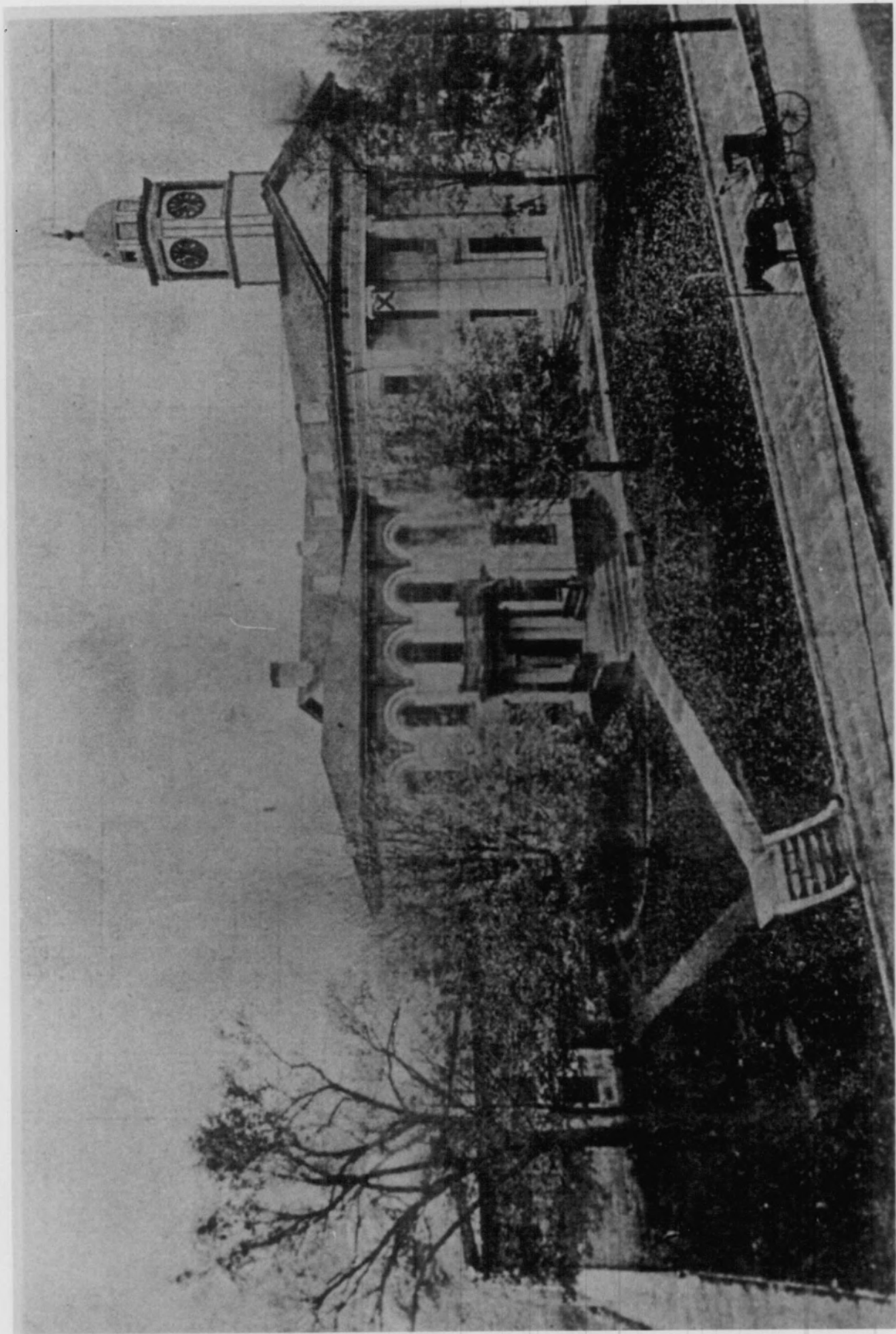
H. S. Grant

April 1920

8 NW → SE



NE → SW



Name of Court: Jayuya County Court house
Case No.:
Plaintiff: St. R. Grant
Date of Trial: April 1978
Where tried: SW - 2 NE
Page No.:



Name of Site: Logansport County Court House

Site Number

Photographer: H. R. Grant

Date of Photo: April, 1929

View of Photo: SF -> NW

-log. Size

