

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina
COUNTY: Cabarrus
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Cabarrus County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Union Street, south

CITY OR TOWN:
Concord

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Eighth

STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37 COUNTY: Cabarrus CODE: 025

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<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 (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
County of Cabarrus

STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 707

CITY OR TOWN:
Concord

STATE:
North Carolina

CODE:
37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Cabarrus County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Union Street, south

CITY OR TOWN:
Concord

STATE:
North Carolina

CODE:
37

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

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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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Cabarrus County Courthouse is a two-and-one-half story structure of brick, stuccoed and rusticated. Its plan and roof forms are a complex combination of unlike elements, and stylistically it combines the Second Empire, Classic Revival, and Italianate modes--creating a building of unusual individuality. The facade, which suggests the variety of forms employed, is composed of three elements symmetrically arranged, consisting of a central pavilion and two flanking elements, each recessed behind the other. First is the pedimented three-story entrance pavilion, with a single doorway at the first level and two bays at the second and third levels: the second-story windows are segmental-arched with keystones and set in rectangular brick panels; those at the third are round-arched, set in arched openings divided and flanked by heavy paneled pilasters. The pediment is outlined by a heavy dentil and modillion cornice. From this pavilion rises a dramatic tower, set on a square base and being square in section; on each face is an arched, round-keystoned window flanked by pilasters that carry a pediment; these are flanked in turn by arched, louvered vents. The pediments are outlined by a dentil cornice, which carries around the tower. The tower is capped by a convex mansard roof, with a clock on each face, and crowned by elegant cresting of unusual delicacy.

The second element of the facade, recessed slightly behind the pedimented entrance pavilion, is a three-story hip-roof section, of nearly equal height to the pavilion. It is articulated by tall, narrow round-arched brick panels topped by bullseye windows, and it terminates in an entablature similar to that of the pediment. Across this section and the entrance pavilion extends a heavy Victorian masonry porch with three arched entrances, replacing the original one-bay wooden porch which had elaborate posts with molded neckings on paneled pedestals.

The third element, recessed behind the second, is a two-and-one-half-story section topped by a mansard roof. The first-level windows are segmental-arched, the second-story ones round-arched, and each is emphasized by very heavy masonry labels and sills. The entablature recurs beneath the roofline, which is lower than that of the other sections. The mansard roof is pierced by elaborate dormers with bullseye windows, and the upper cornice of the mansard roof is even with the cornice of the hip roof section and continues the dentil course.

The sides of the building show a continuation of the mansard-roof element, but are interrupted by two-and-one-half-story, flat-roof entrance pavilions, each one bay wide, featuring at the first level a doorway, at the second an arched window, and at the third a bullseye window echoing the bullseye dormers that continue along the mansard roof. The mansard element does not occur at the rear of the building. Here there is a repeat of the pedimented motif--terminating the gable roof that covers the three-story central section of the building. Carrying across the rear elevation at a two-story level is a flat-roof extension that repeats the entablature and arched windows of the main building.

The interior of the main block has a center hall plan, two rooms deep at the first level, with matched circular stairs rising immediately to the

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right and left of the front door. The heavy newels are a combination of deeply turned sections near the top and bottom with the center section and base made up of a number of narrow, vertical paneled surfaces. The building has heavy, molded architraves and four-panel doors with heavy moldings. A molded chair rail and vertically sheathed wainscot carry up the stairs and into the large courtroom which occupies most of the second floor. The courtroom windows have large, rounded rods with finials to guard along the plastered edges of the reveals. The ceiling in this room has been lowered and the floor to the rear elevated to enhance spectator visibility.

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1876

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cabarrus County Courthouse, built 1875-1876, is an impressive and highly individualized example of Victorian governmental architecture, combining in unusual and effective fashion the Classic Revival, Italianate, and Second Empire styles. It is one of two buildings in North Carolina known to have been designed by architect G. S. H. Applegeet--the other being the elegant Second Empire town house built for financier Jonathan M. Heck of Raleigh (1869). The distinctive character of the two buildings testifies to the individuality and virtuosity of this as yet nearly unknown architect. Court was held in this building until recently and it is still used for office space, but is threatened with demolition.

Newspaper reports in the local Sun and Register, plus the minutes of the County Commissioners meetings provide an unusually complete account of the construction of the Cabarrus County Courthouse and reflect vividly the flavor of post-Civil War Concord. "Court house Burnt February 15th 1875," recorded the minutes, and the county commissioners voted to "return their thanks to the citizens of Concord both white and colored for assisting the county officers in saving the county records and papers from the fire. . . ." By June 11, G. S. H. Applegeet was employed to execute drawings for a "court house jail;" he was to be allowed "5 per cent." On August 2, 1875, J. L. Fisher, treasurer of the county commissioners, was ordered to pay Applegeet \$100 in part payment for his design for jail and courthouse. On the 21st of the same month, H. C. McAllister, James McDonald, and W. A. Patterson were appointed to be "a building committee for the jail and court house now in course of erection." F. W. Ahrens was the contractor for building the jail and courthouse, and Michael Maffitt was the brick contractor or mason.

By February of 1876, both of the local newspapers were heralding the approaching completion of the new courthouse and there was even talk of getting up a collection to place a clock in the steeple (tower). Both newspapers applauded the appearance of the building.

March 11, 1876, Register: "Fifty years ago to the day, the old court house building, which is occupied by Mr. Hill, was sold for \$50--it brought \$51 Monday." It was reported in the Sun on April 25, 1876, that the finishing touches given by Esq. McAllister to the ceiling in the courtroom were "perfectly beautiful," though reservations followed. "Several little designs in the plaster paris representing - well, we can't say what, -

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relieves the eye upon entering the hall from the monotonous appearance of such large rooms." The same article continued that the clock had arrived and would be installed soon and noted that "the iron railing on the very top of the tower is exquisitely wrought and completes that part to a fraction." The Register of Tuesday, May 9, 1876 reported, "The new bell for the courthouse was brought up town yesterday. It weighs 994 pounds. It will wake up Mt. Pleasant and Harrisburg." The Tuesday, May 16th, 1876 Sun: "The town clock and court house bell are now in position and the correct time of day or night to be had only for the looking up." On the 23rd of the same month a small note announced that "the first court house this county ever had was torn away last week. . . . This cleans up the entire front of the new courthouse lot."

A kinder description of the ornamental plaster work appeared in the Sun on June 27, 1876:

An ingenious device in Plaster of Paris, representing the old original '13', with the stars and bars, ornaments the ceiling of the lobby in our new courthouse. The whole is in the shape of a circle, in the middle of which, is a figure representing the general government. Any one desiring to know more about it, can step into the court house where they will find Capt. McAllister ready to explain it, and discuss the merrits in the case. They will also see a thousand little things that will instruct and interest them.

On July 3, 1876, court convened in the new courthouse for the first time with Judge David Schenck presiding and "Zebulon B. Vance and Walter Leak/ Steele to deliver addresses in the evening." One of the local editors could not resist a bit of fun at the expense of the new courthouse, even though there seemed to be general satisfaction with the appearance of the building, for in the Sun of Tuesday, July 4, 1876, came this comment: "As a rule shams should be exposed. The two sham windows in the court house are an exception, however, and should be hidden from public scrutiny. As it is they look as though the architect had originally intended them for windows and afterwards changed his mind and filled them up." On July 25, 1876, it was noted that "The new court house and jail cost the county \$30,000, including all the expenses."

In May, 1973, Historic Cabarrus, Inc. was formed in an attempt to save this building from demolition. A new courthouse has been built. The earlier building has been confirmed structurally sound, and some funds raised for its preservation, but the county commissioners have not made a commitment to its preservation. Its future is now uncertain.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Research and architectural description by Charles Greer Suttlemyre, Jr., survey specialist.
 Cabarrus County, Minutes, Board of County Commissioners, 1868-1882, Cabarrus County Courthouse, Concord, North Carolina.
 Cabarrus County, Minutes, Board of County Commissioners 1868-1882, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina.
 The Concord Register, Concord, North Carolina, 1876. Walter J. Boylin editor and proprietor. (Later edited by John Woodhouse in July of 1876.)
 The Concord Sun, Concord, North Carolina, 1876. I. L. Nelson, editor and Wade L. Harris local editor.

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	0 0 0	0 0 0		35 24 38	80 34 52	
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Survey and Planning Unit
 ORGANIZATION
Division of Archives and History
 STREET AND NUMBER:
109 East Jones Street
 CITY OR TOWN:
Raleigh
 STATE
North Carolina
 CODE
37
 DATE
15 May 1974

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 Thornton W. Mitchell
 Title Acting Director, Division of Archives and History
 Date 15 May 1974

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

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
 Date _____
 ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register
 Date _____

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