

Added to AR 6/19/97

ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS AND HERITAGE

Nomination Form

1. Name

historic Choctaw County Courthouse
and/or common

2. Location

street & number 117 South Mulberry Avenue (Alabama Highway 17)
city, town Butler ---vicinity of
state Alabama county Choctaw zip 36904

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Choctaw County Commission Phone number 205-459-2417
street & number 117 South Mulberry Avenue, Suite 9 (Probate Judge)
city, town Butler ---vicinity of zip 36904

5. Floor plan & site plan. Use space below to sketch floor plan and site plan or attach additional sheet.

Attached

6. Description (See attached instructions for specific guidelines.)

Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

Check one

unaltered

altered

Check one

original site

moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance.

The Choctaw County Courthouse is a two-story, yellow brick, hipped-roof building dating from 1906 and depicting strong Beaux Arts Classicism elements commonly seen in public buildings during the early 20th century. Dominant stylistic elements include the monumental scale, hipped roof, water table, projecting gabled dormers (on north, south, and west) and projecting raised portico on the facade (east). Notable exterior details appear in the two-tiered portico, the upper tier consisting of Corinthian columns supporting a pediment and the lower tier of brick piers supporting a brick arcade. Square roof towers which originally flanked the portico no longer exist, though the protruding center block of the structure denotes their location. Curved walls, at the rear corners of the building have been maintained. Notable original interior elements include the double stairs leading to the courtroom balcony and an original vault. Additions were made in 1955 to the north and south ends of the building and again in 1965 on the rear (west). Though modern in design, the scale and styling of these elements (particularly the one-story north and south wings) are sympathetic to the appearance of the original building.

Centrally located in the rural southwestern Alabama community of Butler, the Choctaw County Courthouse stands as one of the region's most notable architectural landmarks. The building faces east on approximately one acre, at the southwest corner of the intersection of state highways 17 (Mulberry Avenue) and 10 (Pushmataha Street). A Confederate statue erected in 1936 stands at the northeast corner of the building. Local historians believe that it was made at the Townsend Studio in Carrara, Italy for a cost of \$2,420. A Confederate marker dating from 1939 is located on the northwest corner of the lot. A small grass-covered yard area surrounds the building, with an asphalt parking area located at the rear of the lot.

In 1955, one-story hipped-roof wings were added at the north and south ends of the original building. This addition resulted in several alterations to the existing structure. Several windows were covered with brick and first floor halls were faced with green ceramic wall tile (lower portion) and terrazzo floor tiles (black/white/grey), so that these areas would match the new wings. Original walls appear to have been plaster and floors wood. Also, ceilings were lowered and acoustical tiles installed, and original doors and windows were replaced with modern aluminum-framed units. One of two original chimneys (the northernmost) and four mantels were removed, and four fireplaces were enclosed. The addition provided ten new offices, two storage vaults, four restrooms, a Commissioners Court and Grand Jury rooms, for a cost of over \$110,000.

In 1965, an addition consisting of two-stories and a partial basement was made to the rear (west) of the original building for a cost of \$317,000. The new wing provided additional office and rest room facilities. In an attempt to blend with the original style and design, yellow brick was used, and the water table was extended to create a raised basement effect. Around the time of this addition, the two front roof towers were removed because of continued roof leaks and repairs.

In 1994, an elevator was installed at the junction of the northwest corner of the original building and the northeast corner of the rear addition.

(For additional details see attached paper by Ann H. Gay.)

7. Significance (See attached instructions for specific guidelines.)

Period	Areas of Significance-Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1906-7 Builder/Architect William S. Hull

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph).

The Choctaw County Courthouse is eligible for listing on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage under Criterion A in the area of politics/government and under Criterion C under the area of architecture. As the earliest extant Choctaw County courthouse, it has been the nucleus of county governmental and political activity since its completion in 1907. Architecturally, its Beaux Arts Classical styling and monumental scale define it as a visual landmark for Butler and Choctaw County, as well as the surrounding southwest Alabama Coastal Plain. It furthermore depicts an example of an architectural style popularized during a period of general prosperity and expansion of public buildings at the turn-of-the-century and remains as one of a few such courthouses to survive later construction booms.

HISTORICAL SUMMARY:

Choctaw County was created by the legislature on December 29, 1847, out of territory taken from Washington and Sumter counties. The earliest governmental activities were carried on at the courthouse in Barrytown, the former seat of Washington County, in the southern part of the county. A county commission was named to choose a suitable location for the seat of government within a four-mile radius of the center of the county. Subsequent acts on January 19, 1848, and March 1, 1848, extended the location to a six-mile radius and required that an election be held to determine the final location. The name Butler was given to the new county seat, in honor of Mexican War hero Pierce Butler of South Carolina. In 1848, a frame courthouse was constructed on the site of the present courthouse. This structure occupied the site until 1906, when it was moved to the west side of the block to accommodate the new building. After completion of the new building, the 1848 structure was then purchased by O.C. Ulmer and moved across the street for occupation by local businessmen until it burned in 1932 (Colonial Dames, p.17). It is possible that the 1848 building was actually replaced during the antebellum period following an 1859 fire (Ann Gay, p.1, from ALKOLI). During this early period, the county also constructed a probate office on the courthouse square. This building apparently burned in 1871 and was replaced by a small brick structure on the southeast corner of the block which stood until the early-20th century (Colonial Dames, p.17).

In 1906, during a period of general economic growth and expansion of public facilities, Choctaw County began construction of a new courthouse. Architect William S. Hull of Jackson, Mississippi, was selected to design the building, and Hugger Brothers Builders of Montgomery were chosen as contractors. An historic postcard from 1905 reveals the Choctaw County Courthouse to be a scaled-down version of another Hull building, the Hinds County Courthouse in Jackson, Mississippi (replaced by the present 1933 courthouse). The design was again used in 1908 in the Washington County Courthouse in Chatom, though this building was replaced with a modern structure in 1964. The architect is also credited with the Bibb County Courthouse in Centreville. The Choctaw County Courthouse at Butler, rather than being replaced, was added to a altered to meet changing needs and growth. It has been the central location of county government, politics, and law enforcement since its

construction, and it stands as the largest and most architecturally impressive building in the county and surrounding area.

A Confederate statue, known as "The Confederate Soldier," was erected on the northeast corner of the square in 1936 and stands as the only statue in the county. It was made in Italy, probably at Townsend Studio in Carrara. Behind the courthouse, on the northwest corner of the property, is a Confederate marker placed by the United Daughters of the Confederacy in 1939.

See Ann H. Gay paper for details on construction costs, county officials, and contractors of 1906 courthouse and 1955 and 1965 additions.

8. Major Bibliographical References

- Gay, Ann H. "Choctaw County, Alabama Courthouse." Butler, Alabama: n.d., n.p. (Addendum to Alabama Register Nomination, March 26, 1997).
- Owen, Thomas McAdory. History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography. Chicago: The S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1921.
- The National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of Alabama. Early Courthouses of Alabama Prior to 1860. Mobile: Jordan Printing Company, 1966.

9. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1 acre
Quadrangle name _____

Enclose map showing location of property. (city or county map, state highway department map, or USGS map)

10. Form Prepared By Sally Moore (AHC) and

name/title Ann H. Gay (Mrs. Paul)
organization Choctaw County Historical Society date 6/19/97
street & number 308 Miller Avenue telephone 205-459-2828
city or town Butler state AL zip 36904

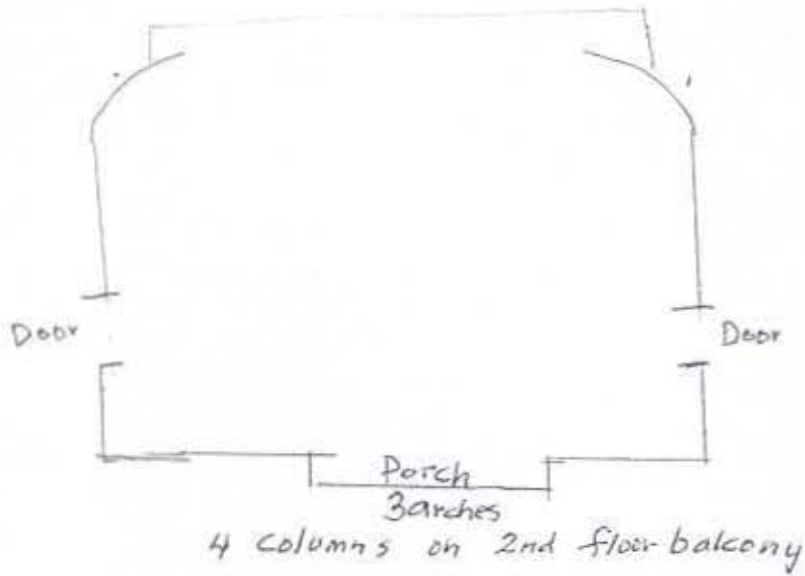
11. Please submit color slides of the property with this form.

Color slides are essential to the review process.

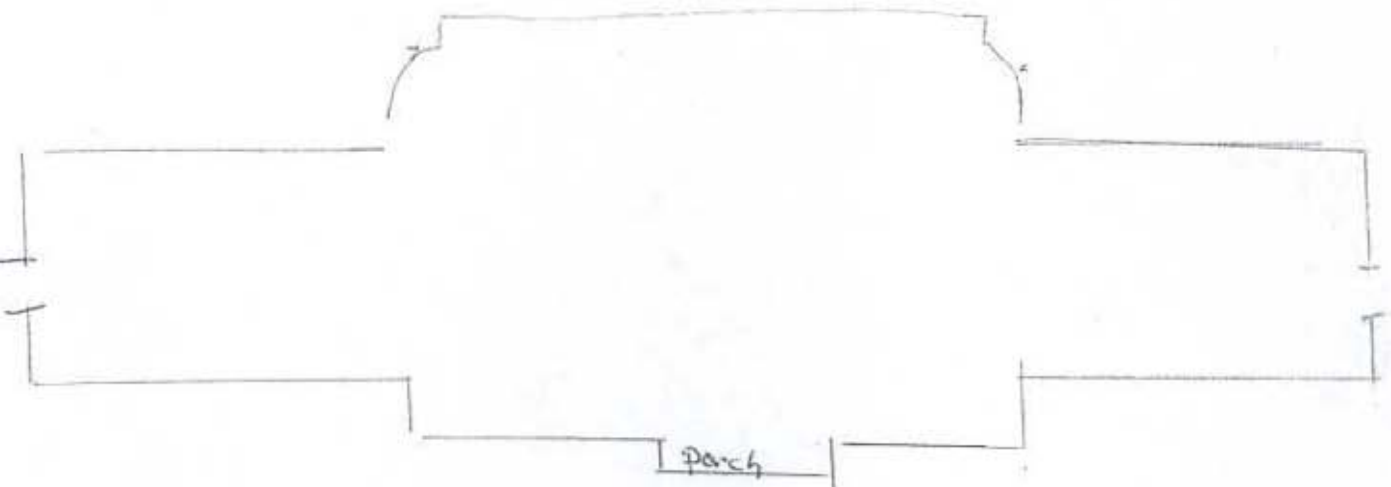
12. Please return ALABAMA REGISTER form and documentation to:

Alabama Register Coordinator
Alabama Historical Commission
468 South Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900

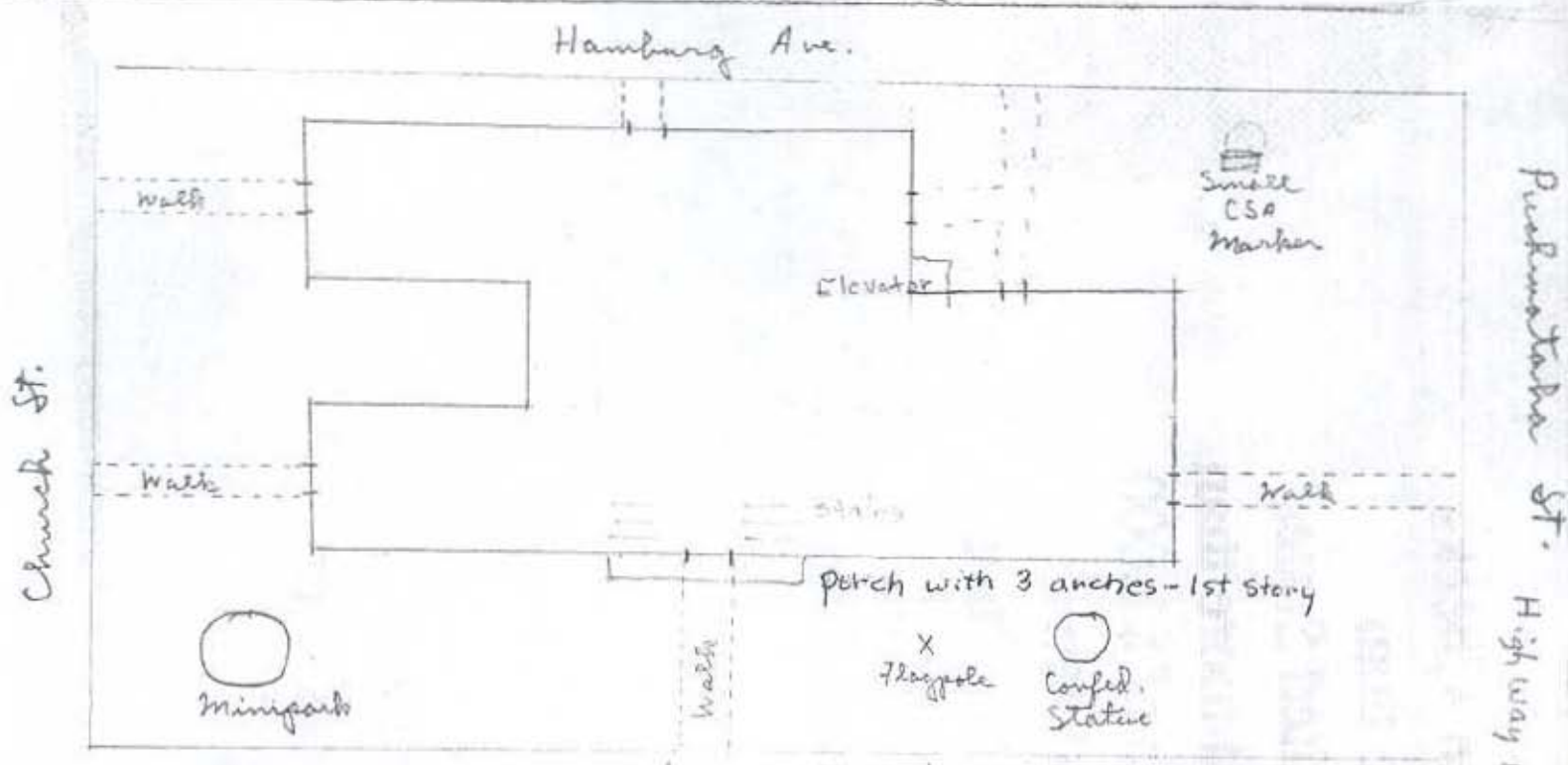
CHOCTAW COUNTY, AL COURTHOUSE
BUTLER, AL

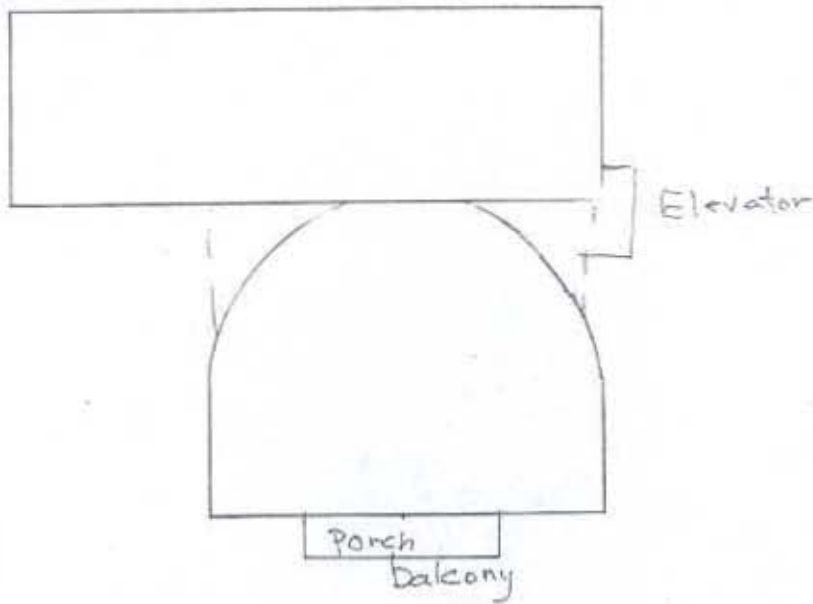


1907



1955

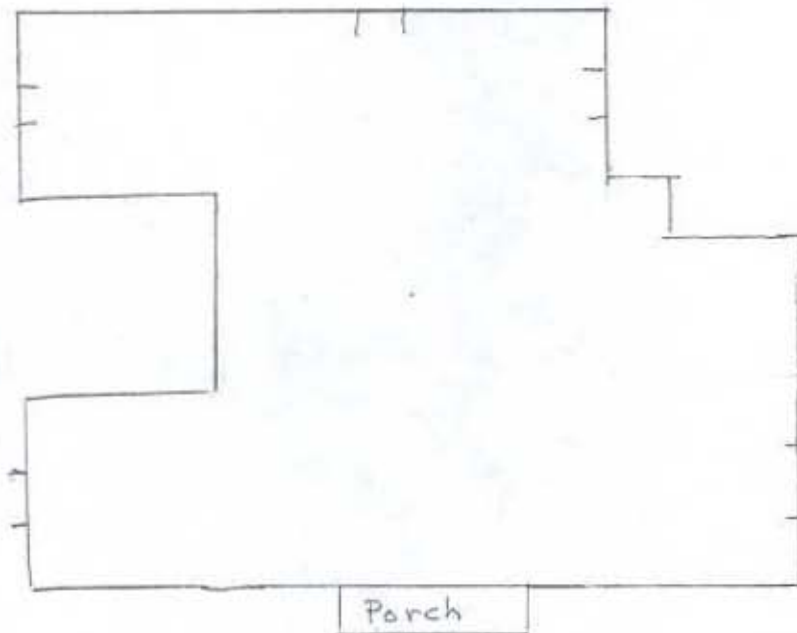




2nd story
1997

HAMBURG STREET

CHURCH STREET



PUSHMATAHA ST. HIGHWAY 10

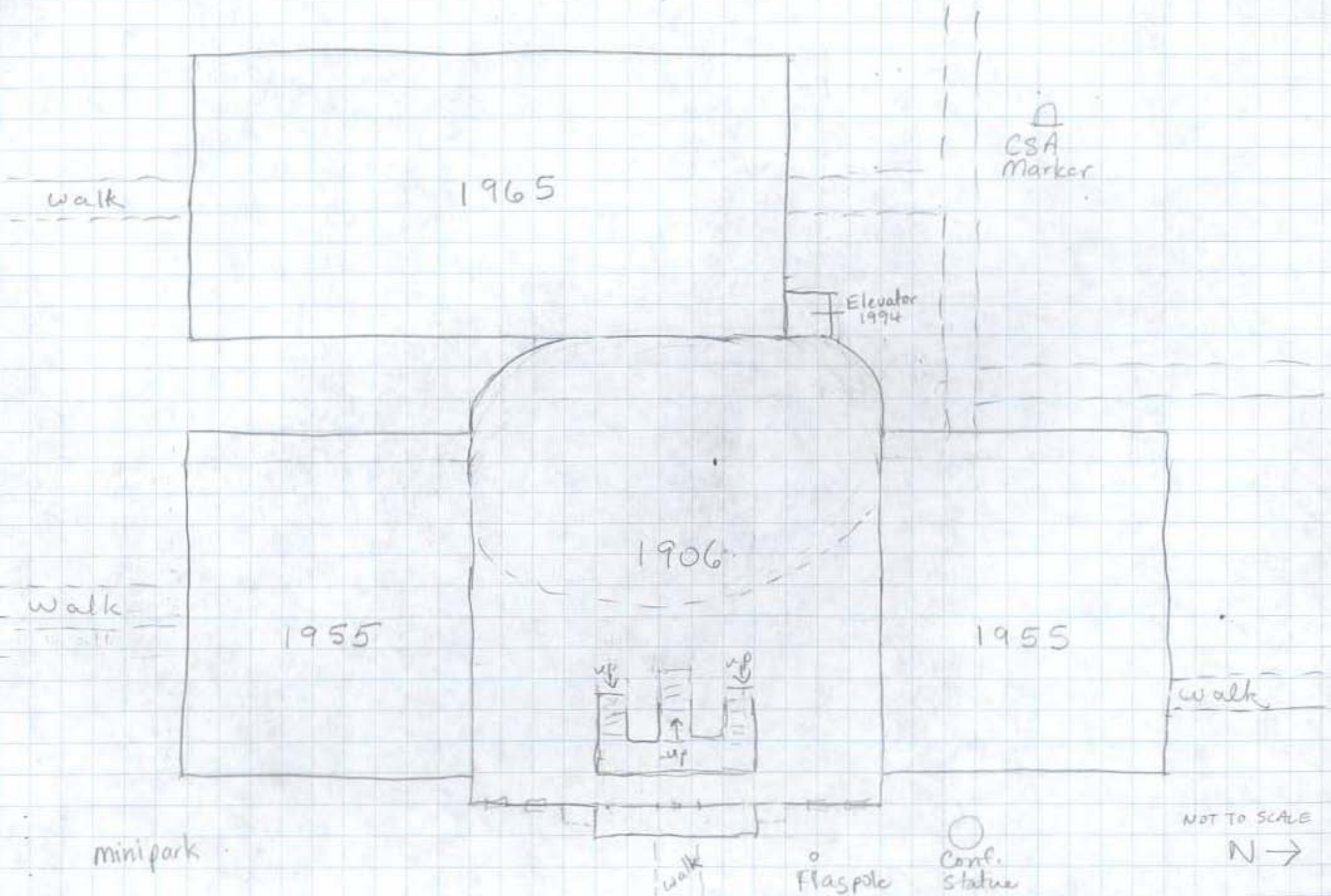
HIGHWAY 17/ MULBERRY AVENUE

1st story
1997

CHOCTAW COUNTY COURTHOUSE

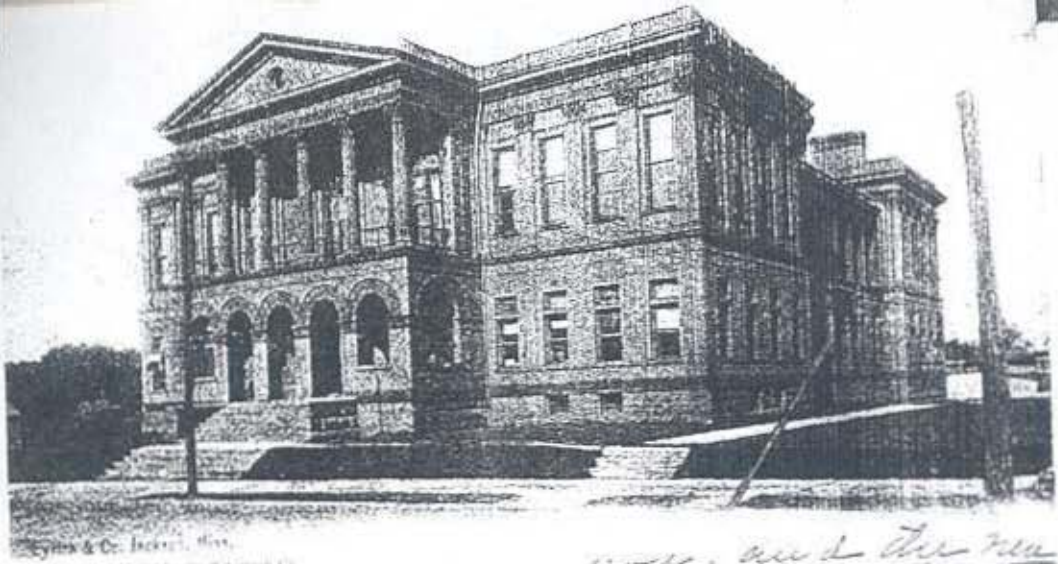
SBM
4/97

Butler, Choctaw Co.



JACKSON, MS
COURTHOUSE

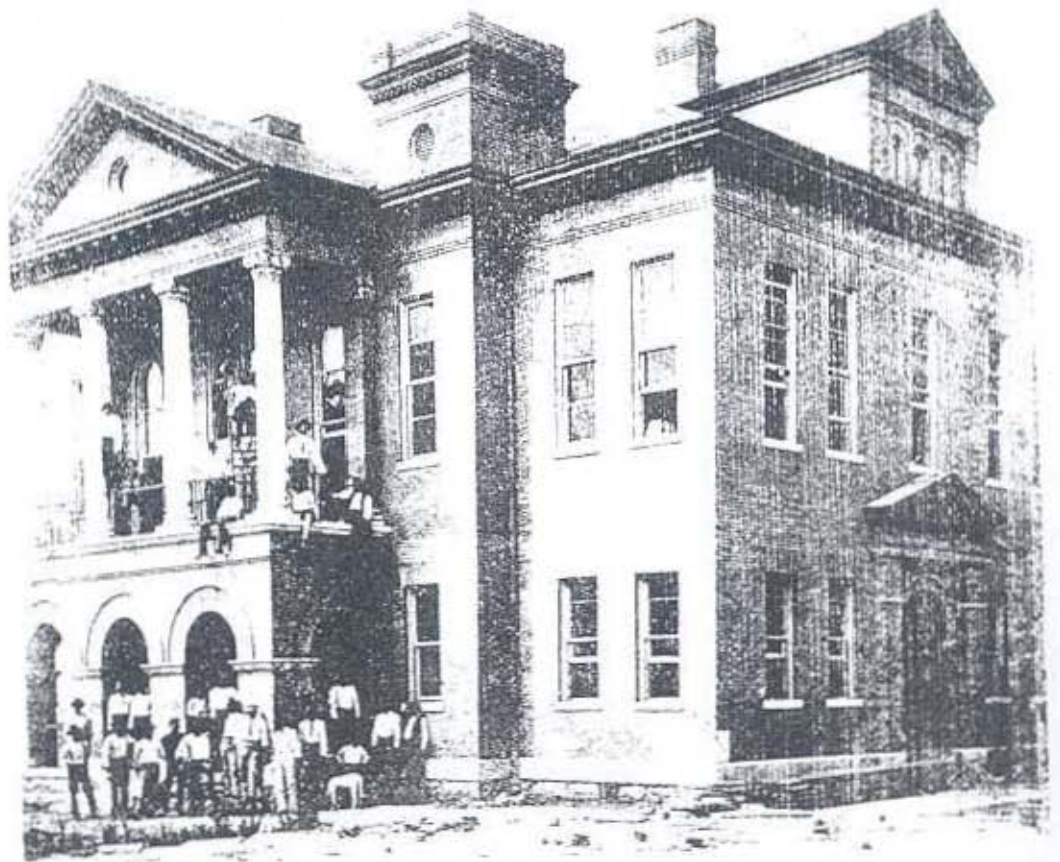
1905 postcard



*So every one that you see here, all of the new
any- one to the courthouse. Hope to see you again
in the future. Write to me when
you are in the future. Love to you all.*

CHOCTAW COUNTY
AL
COURTHOUSE
BUTLER, AL

1906-1907



IN 1906, THIS NEW BRICK COURTHOUSE was completed "on the square" in Butler. To the right, in back of the new building, can be seen the original building of the former courthouse complex, it having been moved to facilitate construction. Purchased by Butler and Mr. Sterling businessman O. C. Ulmer, it was moved to the present site of the Knowles Building where it stood as the "Ulmer Building" until destroyed by fire in the 1930's.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, AL COURTHOUSE
1908

76 population centers in the territory—
Natchez on the Mississippi river and
the Tombigbee settlements near the

ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS AND HERITAGE

Nomination Form

RECEIVED

MAR 28 1997

1. Name CHOCTAW COUNTY COURTHOUSE

historic

and/or common

Ala. Historical Commission

2. Location

street & number 117 S. Mulberry Avenue (Highway 17)

city, town BUTLER, AL ---vicinity of

state ALABAMA county CHOCTAW zip 36904

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name CHOCTAW COUNTY COMMISSION

Phone number 1-205-459-2417

street & number 117 S. Mulberry Avenue - Suite 9 (Probate Judge)

city, town BUTLER ---vicinity of zip 36904

5. Floor plan & site plan. Use space below to sketch floor plan and site plan or attach additional sheet.

See additional sheet attached

See attached photos for historic interest.

See attached pages for full description of the present building.

width of the courtroom.

The balcony, which faces the judge's bench, extends the entire stairway to the courtroom balcony.

on each side, which unite above the second floor to make one

The stairs inside the front entry are double, one staircase inside and out.

The back walls behind the second floor courtroom are curved, on the building. Decorative dentil work is under the eaves. dormer windows on the North, South and West side. One chimney remains four columns on the second floor balcony. It has a hip roof with Avenue) has an attached porch with three arches on the first floor and The yellow-brick building's main entrance on Highway 17 (Mulberry

The Choctaw County Courthouse is of classical style.

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance.

Condition
____ excellent
____ good
 fair

____ deteriorated
____ ruins
____ unexposed

Check one
____ unaltered
 altered

Check one
 original site
____ moved
____ date

6. Description (See attached instructions for specific guidelines.)

7. Significance (See attached instructions for specific guidelines.)

Period	Areas of Significance-Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
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<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1906 **Builder/Architect** Hugger Bros. Builders, MONTGOMERY
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph). Architect: William S. Hull, Jackson, MS

The Choctaw County Courthouse, located on its original 1847 site in Butler, AL has been the central location of county business and law enforcement. It is the most visible and impressive building in the town, which grew up around the square. The site of celebrations and lynchings, it is the major preserver of county records and history. In its yard on the North side stands the only statue in the County, the Confederate Soldier, made in Italy and dedicated in 1937.

Its classical architectural style and size make the building unique in the 900 square mile area of the county.

History: Construction began in 1906; building occupied in 1907.

Additions to building: 1954: One story wings added on the North and South end of building

L. L. Brasfield, Meridian, MS, Architect; Moody and Webb, Contractors.

Additions to building 1965: Two story and half basement added to provide additional offices, rest rooms, etc. Yellow brick used to match existing building. Large wing added on West side of bldg.

James. F. Hurd, Architect; F. B. Bear Contracting Company, General Contractor. Judge Richard E. McPhearson, Chairman of County Commission.

The building is occupied by county officers and not under current threat.

8. Major Bibliographical References

Book D COURT OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS 12 February 1906 pages 105-135, 142 f

Book M MINUTES, COMMISSIONERS COURT 18 March 1954

The Choctaw Advocate. Jan. 29, 1953 and Feb. 5, 1953

Gay, Ann H. CHOCTAW NAMES AND NOTES. Meridian, MS: Brown Printing, c1993
Article on interview with Probate Judge Hunter Phillips and
1954 addition

Other sources cited at end of attached papers.

9. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1 acre

Quadrangle name BUTLER

Enclose map showing location of property. (city or county map, state highway department map, or USGS map)

Map of Butler, showing photograph of courthouse, enclosed

10. Form Prepared By

name/title Ann H. Gay (Mrs. Paul) CHOCTAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, V.P.

organization CHOCTAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY date _____

street & number 308 Miller Avenue (Mrs. Gay) telephone 1-205-459-2828

city or town BUTLER state AL zip 36904

11. Please submit color slides of the property with this form.

Color slides are essential to the review process.

12. Please return ALABAMA REGISTER form and documentation to:

Alabama Register Coordinator
Alabama Historical Commission
468 South Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900



a.



b.

A Good Neighbor... Protecting Our Natural Heritage.

Responding to economic and social needs of the community is one of our major goals.

The broad opportunities ahead for both James River and Naheola are indicative of the responsiveness we feel for strengthening and encouraging a greater involvement.

Growth of area economics through job expansions is an on-going effort at James River. Improving educational facilities with new and expanded schools, vocational training, on-the-job training are areas of major importance in keeping the growth pace of Naheola in step with the rest of the nation.

Our commitment to tomorrow is to make breakthroughs today toward improving the life around us. Social and technological responsiveness is the key to helping our community become a better place in which to live and work.

New ideas for a better tomorrow means an on-going effort at Naheola to strive continuously for a healthy environment.

Protecting the future opportunities for employees and their children is a responsibility that James River recognizes as a primary endeavor.

- a. Visitor at one of the country's largest paper producing plants is dwarfed by gigantic rolls in manufacturing facilities.
- b. Choctaw County's Court House occupies a key position in the area of economic development.
- c. Residents of Butler are understandably proud of the ever-growing collection at the Public Library, also center for many of the city's cultural events.
- d. Central landmark in Butler is the City Hall.

CHOCTAW COUNTY, ALABAMA COURTHOUSE

By Ann H. Gay

An almost square yellow brick two-story building, the Choctaw County Courthouse in Butler, AL, was begun in 1906 and completed and occupied in 1907. William S. Hull of Jackson, MS was the architect and Hugger Brothers Builders of Montgomery were the contractors.

This building seems to be a scaled-down version of the Jackson, MS Courthouse shown on a 1905 postcard. That square shaped building had an attached porch with five arches, and above it a balcony with six Corinthian columns. The Choctaw County Courthouse has the same classical styling, the same attached porch, with three (not five) arches and with four (not six) Corinthian columns on the balcony.

The Washington County, AL Courthouse built in 1908, William S. Hull of Jackson, Architect, seems to be a "clone" or copy of the Choctaw County courthouse. Hull apparently had one generic plan and used it for both Alabama courthouses! We wonder if there are more. The Washington County Courthouse in Chatom, AL, designed by Hull, was torn down and replaced with a modern building in 1964.

The Choctaw County Courthouse was not torn down, but added to over the years, and although modified still retains the dignity and style of the original. It has been the central location of county business, legal transactions and law enforcement and is the largest and most impressive building in the town which grew up around it. The site of celebrations and lynchings, it is the preserver of county records and history.

In its yard on the Northeast side facing Highway 17 stands the only statue in the county, the Confederate Soldier, made in Italy probably at Townsend Studio in Carrera. The statue was erected in 1936 and dedicated on Confederate Memorial Day in 1937. Total cost of the project was \$2,420.

An excellent history of the first two wooden courthouses in Butler, written by Josephine Dansby Evans, is found in ALOKOLI, THE CHOCTAW COUNTY BICENTENNIAL BOOK. Alabama Department of Archives and History says the Choctaw County courthouse burned in 1859 and again in 1871.

The 1907 Courthouse is built on the original site of the 1848 Choctaw County Courthouse. Although the county was created on December 29, 1847, the first court sessions were held in the Barryton two-story log building which had been Washington County's courthouse until Choctaw was created. Since it took several months to build the new Choctaw courthouse in Butler, it was not occupied until 1848.

Charles C. McCall was Probate Judge when the 1906 contract was let for \$28,477. County Commissioners were J. A. Ward, W. H.

Ford, Moses Slay and W. S. Powe. A special tax was to be levied to pay for the building. The original contract called for molded caps over all doors, courtroom to have steel ceiling, first level floor to be marble base. Original plans were modified due to costs.

The classical architectural style and size make the building unique in the 900 square mile area of the County.

1955 addition to 1906 building: one story yellow brick wings added to the North and South sides. L.L. Brasfield of Meridian, MS was architect, Moody and Webb of Butler were contractors. Hunter Phillips was Probate Judge. County Commissioners were: Coleman Tillman, D. T. Cook, M. S. Owen and F. E. Marsh.

Original plans called for a three-story brick addition on the South side. This was modified to one story wings on the North and the South side of the 1906 building. Some windows were bricked up for addition, first floor halls had green ceramic wall tile installed, and terazzo tile floors laid so 1906 building and new wings on first floor would match.

The addition of 6,000 square feet provided ten new offices, two storage vaults, four restrooms, Commissioners Court and Grand Jury rooms. The final cost was over \$110,000.

1965 addition: A West wing costing \$317,000, including two stories and a half basement, was added on the back of the building to provide additional offices, rest rooms, etc. Yellow brick was used to match the existing building. James F. Hurd of Dixie Engineering Corporation was Architect, F. B. Bear Contracting Company was the General Contractor.

Richard E. McPhearson was Probate Judge and Chairman of the County Commission. Board of Commissioners: District 1, J. K. Sparrow; District 2, C. R. Ezell; District 3, A. W. Doggett; District 4, Grady Mosley.

The addition was constructed with federal funds under Public Law 87-658 of the Public Works Acceleration Act of 1962.

1994 Elevator shaft and elevator added on Northwest side of building, Charles V. Ford, Probate Judge.

ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS

Main entrance facing Highway 17 has attached porch with three arches on the front, one on each side, and on the balcony above the porch stand four Greek columns with Corinthian capitals. Decorative dentil work under the eaves was originally metal, but was replaced with wood in a later remodelling.

Roof: modified hip roof with dormer windows on the North, South and West side of the building. One of the original two chimneys has been removed. Square roof Tower/Towers by porch on Highway 17 were removed due to roof leaks and repairs around 1965.

Chimneys and mantels: in 1906 building there were two chimneys, one on North end of building and one on South, and prob-

ably four fireplaces with mantels inside, two for each chimney to serve four offices. The North chimney has been removed. Mantels were torn off and fireplaces enclosed in 1954 remodelling.

Walls: on first floor halls green brick-sized ceramic tiles were inlaid shoulder high in 1954. Above the tiles, plaster walls were covered in the 1990's with dark wood-grain panelling.

Floors: original contract called for marble floors. However the 1906 contract had to be modified due to cost, so it is not certain there were marble floors. County Tax Assessor Jimmy Adams says the floors in his office, part of the 1906 building, were wood, later covered by asphalt tile.

Floors in the first story hallways of 1906 building were covered with black/white/gray terazzo tile so the floors would match those in the 1955 addition/remodelling.

Stairs inside the front entry are double, one staircase on each side, which unite above the second floor to make one stairway to the courtroom balcony. The balcony, which faces the Judge's bench, extends the entire width of the courtroom. The back walls on the West side of the 1906 building behind the Judges' bench, both inside and out, are curved. Outside walls are brick, inside are plaster.

Light fixtures: no originals remain.

Ceilings probably lowered, tiles replaced original in 1955 remodelling

Doors and Windows: no originals remain; replaced with aluminum framed ones in 1955. Some windows in 1906 building were bricked up and molded caps over North and South entrance doors were removed when wings were added in 1955.

There are entrance doors on the North, South, East and West sides of the present courthouse.

Vault: original 1906 vault still in use

Cornerstones (2) 1906: near ground, just North of porch, main entrance of building, on Highway 17

Plaque for 1955 addition: in hall outside Probate Office

Plaque for 1965 addition: near entrance on Church Street
(Sheriff's entrance on Southwest side of building)

Sources:

Alokoli, the Choctaw County Bicentennial Book. Choctaw County Bicentennial Commission, July 1976

1905 postcard showing Jackson, Ms courthouse; copyright by The Rotograph Company, 1905

Rumore, Samuel A. Jr. "Building Alabama's courthouses, Washington County" (with photos). The Alabama Lawyer March 1997, v58 #2, pages 80-85

Gay, Ann H. "Judge Hunter Phillips' Recollections in 1981" and "Choctaw County Courthouse", both in Choctaw Names and Notes. Meridian, MS: Brown Printing Co, c1993. pages 17, 62-63

Book D, Court of County Commissioners, 12 Feb. 1906, pages 105-135, 142 and following pages

Book M, Minutes, Commissioners Court 18 March 1954

The Choctaw Advocate: 11 April, 19 Sept., 17 Oct. and 26 Dec. 1906

29 Jan. and 5 Feb. 1953

CHOCTAW COUNTY COURT HOUSE

ERECTED 1907

REMODELLED 1955

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HUNTER PHILLIPS, PROBATE JUDGE AND CHAIRMAN

W. C. TILLMAN, 1925-1952
D. T. COOK, 1939-1955
J. B. EVANS, SR., 1949-1952
F. E. MARTIN, 1931-1953
MRS. MINNIE C. MARTIN, 1953-1955
W. C. DANSBY, 1952
C. R. EZELL, 1955
A. W. DOGGETT, 1952
GRADY MOSLEY, 1955

C. W. MARSH, CLERK & TREASURER

L. L. BRASFIELD, ARCHITECT

MOODY & WEBB, GENERAL CONTRACTORS

Another plaque on wall outside Probate Office

IN MEMORY OF
THE HONORABLE RICHARD E. MCPHEARSON
....(who served as Probate Judge
January 1959 - April 1969)

Erected 1974

1965 Inside wall plaque

Addition to Choctaw County Courthouse 1965

Board of Commissioners

Chairman	Judge Richard E. McPhearson
District 1	J. K. Sparrow
District 2	C. R. Ezell
District 3	A. W. Doggett
District 4	Grady Mosley

Dixie Engineering Corporation
James F. Hurd, A.I.A., Architect

General Contractor
F. B. Bear Construction Company

Constructed with federal assistance as authorized by
Public Law 87-658 of the Public Works Acceleration Act
of 1962































