

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



765

# 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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Washington County Courthouse

other names/site number N/A

## 2. Location

street & number 102 North Missouri Street N/A not for publication

city or town Potosi N/A vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Washington code 221 zip code 63664

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Mark A. Miles  
Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles, Deputy SHPO

Sept. 12, 2011  
Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register  determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register  removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

Jon Edson H. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper

10-25-11  
Date of Action

**Washington County Courthouse**

**Washington County, MO**

Name of Property

County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box.)

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

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	<b>Total</b>

**Name of related multiple property listing**

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

N/A

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

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Government/Courthouse**

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Government/Courthouse**

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals/Italian

Renaissance

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: concrete

walls: brick

roof: asphalt

other: wood

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**Washington County Courthouse  
Washington County, Missouri**

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Summary:

The Washington County Courthouse is located at 102 N. Missouri Street in Potosi, Missouri. The two-story brick building, constructed in 1908, sits on a raised concrete foundation and its central block is capped by a hipped roof. Narrow flat roof wings to the east and west are slightly recessed from the main wall plane. The façade is dominated by a central three story tower containing the entrance and topped by a once-open belfry. The tower is flanked by small hipped roof pavilions containing stairwells and is fronted by a one story hipped roof porch supported by battered columns. Henry H. Hohenschild, a prolific Missouri architect who designed several county courthouses in Missouri during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, designed the Washington County Courthouse in the Italian Renaissance style. Consistent with buildings influenced by the Italian Renaissance Revival Style, floors are distinguished by fenestration style. The first floor of the south, east and west elevations has round arched windows with decorative brick hoods on the first floor and flat arched multi-light windows with keystones on the second. The few modifications to date include installation of modern windows and storms and the removal of portions of the balconettes at the belfry. More modifications can be seen in the courthouse grounds. Lawn is retained on a portion of three sides of the building, but the northwestern third of the lot has been paved for parking. Despite the few modifications to date, the Washington County Courthouse still retains a majority of its historic features and effectively conveys its historic significance.

Narrative:

The Washington County Courthouse property measures approximately 145 feet x 120 feet and sits at the corner of Main (HWY 8) and Missouri streets. The County Courthouse building measures approximately 93.5 feet x 78.5 feet. The courthouse property is bounded by Missouri Street to the north, High Street to the south, Mine Street to the northwest and Breton Street to the northeast. There are sidewalks surrounding the courthouse with grass filling the area between the sidewalk and curb. There are hedges interspersed at various points near the courthouse foundation. There are two parking lots located on the grounds of the courthouse. Two objects commonly associated with Courthouses, a veteran's memorial and flag pole are located within the Courthouse property. The dates of these objects preclude them as contributing objects. Other minor noncontributing objects within the courthouse property are: a plaque, handicap accessible water fountains, a trash can, and a post office box. Outside of the property are intersection stop signs and traffic lights at the two intersecting streets. Across the street on the south side of the courthouse are several parking spaces reserved for law enforcement and visitors to the courthouse.

Around the courthouse block to the north is the Potosi Presbyterian Church built in 1906. Across the street from the courthouse is the St. James Catholic Church built in 1861 with an addition that was constructed in 1905. Outside the block, on the west side of the courthouse, is the Washington County Sheriff's Department and jail. The original section of this structure was constructed in 1893. Down the street from the courthouse on S. Missouri Street, is the historic stone wall from Durham Hall, home of founding father Moses Austin. With the exception of

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**Washington County Courthouse  
Washington County, Missouri**

these note-worthy structures, nearly all of the properties around the courthouse block are comprised of one, two and three-story buildings of mostly brick construction dating from the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and housing storefronts and small business offices.

Primary (Southeast) Elevation:

The Southeast elevation is the primary elevation and main entrance to the courthouse. The building components and decorative features are symmetrical. Mirrored about the three-story central tower are matching hipped roofs that are over the main stairway and lead back to the main body of the structure. In this elevation there are three different levels of detailing reflected by the window openings. The main level, which sits slightly above the entry level, has windows capped by round arched brick hoods. The second level uses a splayed lintel and keystone to cap the windows. The third level uses an operable clerestory window with no decorative brick work. The tower uses both splayed lintel and arched brick. All windows in the building have been replaced by modern metal windows. An effort has been made to retain original fenestration openings, though the window units are smaller than the original. Wood panels have been used infill the openings. There are two emergency exits from the basement as well as casement windows in the concrete foundation. The front porch has two concrete decorative braces at the front angling towards the structural walls. The spans between the porch piers have decorative wood arches. At the top of the tower, the belfry windows are faced with open air louvers. There is at each window a decorative wood balconette, though the historic balustrade has been removed.

Northwest Elevation:

Like the southeast elevation, the building components and decorative features on the Northwest (rear) elevation are symmetrical. The fenestration on the first and second floor of this elevation are similar, both levels have round arched windows with decorative brick hoods. The second story windows are double height, marking the location of the main courtroom. The entirety of the façade is brick excluding the foundation walls of the raised basement which are concrete.

Northeast Elevation:

The Northeast elevation faces an alley and parking lot. A flat roof wing extends from this elevation. The wing is slightly shorter and narrower than the hipped roof main block of the courthouse. In this elevation there are three different levels of detailing. The first floor, which sits above the entry level, has round arched windows with brick hoods similar to those on the primary elevation. Also, the second story windows with splayed lintels and keystones are similar to those seen on the front elevation. The third level, on the main block rather than the wing, uses an operable clerestory window with no decorative brick work. There are also on both sides of the structure "flat" roofed portions used as utility spaces for air handling units to maintain the integrity of the buildings landscape.

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**Washington County Courthouse  
Washington County, Missouri**

Southwest Elevation:

The Southwest elevation is nearly identical in design and detail to the northeast elevation. This elevation, though not the entrance, faces the historic courthouse square and the central business district's busiest thoroughfare (Highway 8). Like the northeast elevation, this side has a projecting flat roof wing slightly shorter and narrower than the hipped roof main block of the courthouse. Each level is also marked by a different fenestration pattern: round arched first story windows, second story flat arched windows with splayed lintels and keystones, and clerestory windows on the third level of the main block. A secondary entrance is located in the basement level at the northwest corner of the elevation. It is capped by a round arched transom. Above this, yet out of line with the upper story windows is a flat arched window with keystone, marking the location of an interior stair landing.

Interior:

The interior of the courthouse has been renovated over the years but, the original finishes and character of the building lies just beneath the newer finishes.

The first floor of the courthouse is approximately 3'-0" above the entry level. The approximate square footage of the main floor is 4,400 sf. The interior of this floor has been updated with new wall, floor and ceiling surfaces. The floors are finished in a vinyl tile. The walls have been sheathed in glue mounted faux wood paneling and the ceilings consist of acoustic (2x4) dropped ceiling tiles. Some of the original doors seem to have been replaced. However, the original hall and room arrangement remains throughout the building with little to no modification. At the entry, the original main stair remains intact spanning from the basement to the 3rd (Balcony) level. The structure of the stair is wood as are the decorative features. The starting newel is in the basement leading the balustrade up to the balcony level. Though the stair has new finishes on the treads and risers, the original wood finish is still intact. The runner of the stair is decorated in custom millwork as well. In both the courtroom and the balcony level, the original ceiling remains as a wood slat ceiling between the wood trimmed concrete structures. Also in the courtroom are two balustrades which match the stairs sectioning off the area between the gallery and the courtroom proceedings. The first floor holds the offices of the Circuit Clerk, the County Commission, the County Clerk, the County Collector, and the Circuit Judges Courtroom. This level of the Courthouse is also where the public gathers to observe and hear election results on election days.

The Lower Level (Basement) of the courthouse retains its original room arrangement, including the location of the restrooms. The approximate square footage of the basement including restrooms and mechanical rooms is 4,400 sf. The vaults remain in their original locations and retain the original vault doors. The basement was never highly finished space and is very utilitarian today. The floors of the basement are finished in a vinyl tiles. The walls have been sheathed in glue mounted faux wood paneling and the dropped ceilings consist of (2x4) acoustic ceiling tiles. There are two stairways leading from the basement. The two stairways have landings at their midpoints. There are exterior access doors at these platforms. These exterior areas have steps up to sidewalk and parking grade. There are also two more exterior

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**Washington County Courthouse**  
**Washington County, Missouri**

access doors at the rear (main parking area) of the Courthouse on the Lower Level. The Lower Level (Basement) houses the County Assessors Office, the Recorder of Deeds office as well as the County Mapping Room.

The Upper Level (Third) houses the Prosecuting Attorney, Victim and Witness Services offices and the main Courtroom. The Jury Deliberation Room and the Judges Chambers are also located on this level. However, the majority of this level is taken up by the actual courtroom, at 2,380 square foot room. The reminder of the adjacent offices and entry area bring the total square footage of this level to 4,400 sf. The courtroom is double height sharing a ceiling with the balcony level. The entire courtroom space including the adjoining restrooms areas are unaltered from the original design, although finishes have been changed. The floors are original height but, flooring and wall cladding have been altered. Floors in majority areas on this level are carpeted. The walls have been sheathed in glue mounted faux wood paneling and the dropped ceilings consist of acoustic (2x4) ceiling tiles.

The Balcony Level of the courthouse has largely remained untouched from the date of construction. The total square footage of this level is approximately 1,225 with 1,175 used for the balcony itself. There are no offices on this level. A wall has however been added to the face of the balcony to hide the mechanical units that cool the courtroom. Other than that, all finishes remain as original such as the wood sloped floor to the balcony and the plaster walls. The stairs leading to the balcony level are devoid of the renovated finishes present in the other stairs in the courthouse. A close inspection reveals that the original wood treads and risers are still in place. The ceiling in this area as in the main Courtroom is original wood ceiling with wood faced structure.

The tower levels are both approximately 170 square feet and consist of the original finishes though they are in various degrees of disrepair. As they are open to outside air, birds consistently roost in these areas. Wood floors and wood ceilings flanked by plaster/brick walls make up the totality of both tower levels.

Currently, getting to the Main level of the Courthouse is problematic for the disabled and the elderly. A wooden ramp has been installed over one half of the steps leading up to this Level of the courthouse. The ramp is little more than a painted piece of plywood lying over the three steps. The slope is "steep" and does not meet ADA guidelines. Negotiating up the "steep" ramp in a manual wheelchair is difficult, as the grade requires the person to literally pull him or herself up the ramp.

A proposal to install an elevator that will make it easier for the disabled and elderly to access the Main level of the courthouse is underway. The elevator installation will also bring the Courthouse into compliance with current ADA requirements. It is anticipated also that by the addition of the elevator, community involvement and continuing care, the useful life of the Washington County Courthouse would be greatly extended.

This National Register nomination is designed to mitigate the potential adverse effect of the proposed action.

**Washington County Courthouse**

**Washington County, MO**

Name of Property

County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**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.

**Areas of Significance**

**Politics/Government**

**Architecture**

**Period of Significance**

**1908-1961**

**Significant Dates**

**1908**

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

**N/A**

**Cultural Affiliation**

**N/A**

**Architect/Builder**

**Hohenschield, Henry**

**Oder, W. R.**

**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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

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**Washington County Courthouse  
Washington County, Missouri**

Summary:

The Washington County Courthouse, Potosi, Missouri, was built in 1908. It is significant under Criterion A in the area of Politics/Government and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. Under Criterion A, the building has served as the center of Washington County government for more than a century. Inside this brick walled building, the essential functions and services of government at the county level have been carried out continuously since the time of its construction. Under Criterion C, the courthouse is significant as an example of the Italian Renaissance Revival style favored by the Missouri Architect Henry H. Hohenschield in the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Hohenschield, one of Missouri's prolific architects, designed several courthouses and institutional buildings in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. For the Washington County Courthouse project, Henry Hohenschield collaborated with W. R. Oder, a building contractor from Cantor, Missouri, to build a \$30,000 "red brick courthouse, with a tall, square, bracketed tower that rises from an entry porch – a building that is comparable to neighboring Madison County's courthouse, 1899, designed by St. Louis architect Theodore C. Link."<sup>1</sup> The period of significance, 1908-1961, begins with the date of construction and ends at the arbitrary 50-year cutoff for National Register properties.

Courthouse Development:

The early history of what became Washington County, Missouri is intricately associated with lead mining activities initiated by French explorers who moved inland from the rich Mississippi Valley country in search of precious metals. The search for these precious metals began as early as 1712. Crozat, a French explorer, under a charter from Louis XIV, began mineral explorations in the area. This was at a time when the Illinois-Missouri Country of "Louisiana" came under the government of "New France" or Canada; and, as French settlements grew on the east bank of the Mississippi. The discovery of lead fields and the formation of the Royal Company of the Indies quickened the tide of immigration into the "Illinois Country" from Canada and France.<sup>2</sup>

A number of political and social changes influenced lead mining activities in the territory that was to become Washington County.<sup>3</sup> In 1763, France lost her North American possessions, ceding her territory east of the Mississippi to England, and west of the river to Spain. The American Revolution found Spain and France forming an alliance against England. Eager to populate the new territory, Spain provided land grants to American settlers who joined the French at new mining settlements. Against this backdrop grew the new village of Mine Au Breton. The District of Ste. Genevieve, one of five Spanish districts in what is now Missouri, governed the new village of Mine Au Breton. Commercially, Mine Au Breton served as the

<sup>1</sup> Ohman, Marian M. A History of Missouri Counties, County Seats and Courthouse Squares. Columbia: University of Missouri Extension Division, 1981.

<sup>2</sup> [Showalter, George W]. Potosi, Missouri: *Bicentennial 1763-1963: A Bicentennial Scrapbook*. "The Independent – Journal" – Reprint Edition 1997.

<sup>3</sup> *History of Franklin, Jefferson, Washington, Crawford and Gasconade Counties, Missouri*; Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889. Reprint Ramfre Press, 1958.

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**Washington County Courthouse**  
**Washington County, Missouri**

trading point for all the country south into Arkansas and was later to be set as a temporary seat of justice for the newly formed Washington County.

Washington County was organized on August 21, 1813, from a part of Ste. Genevieve County by an act of the Territory of Missouri, and its original boundaries went west as far as present-day Kansas. The village of Mine Au Breton was the temporary county seat. The county's present boundaries were set in 1857, when the former Black River Township of Washington County was added to parts of other counties to form Iron County.<sup>4</sup> The Washington County Court first met on first Monday in January, 1814. At this meeting, Martin Ruggles, William Sloan, John Stanton, John Brickly, David Barton, and Lionel Browne were appointed by Governor William Clark as the first county officials. The act organizing Washington County had appointed Lionel Browne, Samuel Perry, John Hawkins, Martin Ruggles and John Andrews as "commissioners" to select the county seat and build a courthouse and jail.

On February 26, 1814, the commissioners selected as the permanent county seat a tract of land north of Mine Au Breton and covering 50 acres (40 acres donated by Moses Austin and 10 acres by John Rice Jones). This tract was laid out into a public square and 22 other blocks, or 147 lots and named Potosi.<sup>5</sup> New York historian Henry Rowe Schoolcraft wrote in 1819 that "Potosi is built in a better style than the villages in the country generally". In his observation about the village, he suggested that Potosi had a neat and thriving appearance and contained several handsome edifices.<sup>6</sup>

In July 1814, the county seat commissioners sold 79 lots in Potosi for \$5,080 to finance the first courthouse (1815-1849). A plan for a three-story courthouse with two-story wings to be located on the public square was developed by a Potosi resident by the name of Moses Austin. In designing such an ambitious project, the Washington County officials hoped to influence legislators of the soon to be formed State of Missouri to locate the first state capital at Potosi. Bids for the courthouse were advertised in the St. Louis *Missouri Gazette* and Nehemiah Cravens received the building contract for \$5,595. Funds allocated for the project were not enough to complete the planned building, so only the first story and the wings were completed. In 1849 the courthouse was razed, and the salvage material was used in construction of the second courthouse.<sup>7</sup>

In December 1848, the County officials sought to build the second courthouse (1850-1906). The county officials moved the site of the proposed second courthouse south of the original location, citing that the original site was "too far out of town",<sup>8</sup> on a 150-foot tract of land located at the

<sup>4</sup> Washington County Courthouse. Mine Au Breton Historical Society Orientation Meeting Minutes. March 17, 1981.

<sup>5</sup> Washington County Courthouse. Mine Au Breton Historical Society Orientation Meeting Minutes. March 17, 1981.

<sup>6</sup> Schoolcraft, Henry Rowe. *A View of Lead Mines of Missouri*. New York, Charles Wiley and Company, 1819.

<sup>7</sup> Ohman, Marian M. A History of Missouri Counties, County Seats and Courthouse Squares. Columbia: University of Missouri Extension Division, 1981.

<sup>8</sup> Washington County Courthouse. Mine Au Breton Historical Society Orientation Meeting Minutes. March 17, 1981.

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**Washington County Courthouse**  
**Washington County, Missouri**

corner of High and Missouri streets, and purchased at the cost of \$750 from John and Mary Deane. Materials from the first courthouse were used to build a two-story brick courthouse with cupola and slate roof that stood on a stone foundation. It was painted red, with mortar joints delineated in a process called penciling. The plan called for offices on the first floor, a courtroom and two jury rooms on the second.<sup>9</sup> The courthouse was completed two years later. On April 29, 1850, the court accepted the courthouse building completed by Henry Wright at the cost of \$10,000. After forty-seven years, the courthouse was in need of remodeling. In April 1897, A. H. Mitchell presented plans and specifications to the court for repairing, reroofing and painting the courthouse. The remodeling work was carried out by D. N. Porter and Sons in 1897. The remodeling included the construction of a mansard roof that incorporated part of the earlier cupola into a remodeled tower.<sup>10</sup> This second courthouse was totally destroyed by fire on January 9, 1907.

After the second courthouse was destroyed, Washington County officials were quick to petition for an election to approve funds for the construction of a new courthouse. Voters in March 1907 voted to incur a \$30,000 indebtedness to build their third and present courthouse.<sup>11</sup> Efforts to develop a plan for the new courthouse began immediately. Several plans were submitted, and pictures of Mississippi and Perry County courthouses appeared in the newspapers for consideration.<sup>12</sup> The court received several plans from many design outfits for consideration. The court selected the proposal submitted by Henry H. Hohenschild, a prolific architect of Missouri courthouses and institutional buildings. The accepted courthouse plan consisted of a first floor that housed government offices with courtrooms on the second and third floors. Following the selection, the court awarded the building contract to W. R. Oder of Canton, Missouri for about \$30,000. I. F. Plank was appointed the superintendent for the project.<sup>13</sup>

When the present Washington County courthouse was built in 1908, it represented the state-of-the-art in government architecture. The three-story red brick courthouse, with a tall, square, bracketed tower rising from an entry porch, reflected innovative design for courthouses of the era, and was comparative to those in nearby Pulaski (1903) and Madison (1899) counties designed by H. S. Hohenschild and St. Louis architect Theodore C. Link. The cornerstone ceremonies took place on March 25, 1908 amid pomp and pageantry.<sup>14</sup> At the time of its completion, the new courthouse had county offices in the basement and first floors and a large courtroom on the second floor.

In 1973-74 the courthouse was rehabilitated to enhance usage and fix a number of problems caused by the age of the building. Externally, new metal replacement windows were installed to achieve a measure of energy efficiency but the original window frames were left intact. Inside the building, new wood paneling was installed in public spaces and offices. In addition to the

<sup>9</sup> (Potosi) *Weekly-Independent*. April 8-Dec. 2, 1897; Jan. 12-Nov. 21, 1907; March 25, July 23 1908.

<sup>10</sup> Ohman, Marian M. *A History of Missouri Counties, County Seats and Courthouse Squares*. Columbia: University of Missouri Extension Division, 1981.

<sup>11</sup> *Potosi Journal*, March 6-Nov. 20, 1907; March 25, Sept. 23, 1908.

<sup>12</sup> *Potosi Journal*, March 6-Nov. 20, 1907.

<sup>13</sup> Ohman, Marian M. *A History of Missouri Counties, County Seats and Courthouse Squares*. Columbia: University of Missouri Extension Division, 1981.

<sup>14</sup> (Potosi) *Weekly-Independent*. April 8-Dec. 2, 1897; Jan. 12-Nov. 21, 1907; March 25, July 23 1908.

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**Washington County Courthouse  
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new panels, drop-ceilings were installed in the district, circuit and local courtrooms and within the public gallery area.<sup>15</sup> In 2003 there was a small electrical fire in the present county prosecutor office space that necessitated repairs to the courthouse. This time, the rehabilitation work included an update of the electrical wiring and the remodeling of the prosecutor's office.<sup>16</sup> Despite these rehabilitative efforts, the Washington County Courthouse retains a majority of its historic features and effectively conveys its historic significance.

Architectural Significance:

Under Criterion C, the Washington County Courthouse embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type and period of construction and is a significant work of prolific architect H. H. Hohenschild. Architecturally, the 1908 Washington County Courthouse exemplifies Italian Renaissance Revival Style architecture adapted to rural institutional buildings. In addition, the courthouse resembles the Madison County Courthouse (NRHP 11/09/2011) in form and style. Similar architectural details include round-arched and rectangular windows and dominant tower.

The Washington County Courthouse was designed by a Missouri architect by the name of Henry H. Hohenschild. Hohenschild tended to favor Revival styles in his institutional design. In the first decade or so of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century his known designs tended to be influenced by Italian Renaissance—as seen in the Washington Co. Courthouse, the Pulaski Co. Courthouse, and his design for the North Ward School in Bolivar. In later years, he seemed to favor Classical or Neo-classical style designs—as evidenced in the Scott County, Pemiscot County and Pike County Courthouses.

Working with a budget of \$30,000, Henry H. Hohenschild designed one of the many elegant courthouses that have come to exemplify the work of this master. As early as 1897, Hohenschild was a Fellow with the American Institute of Architects (AIA), and a Member of Societe Centrale D'Architecture de Belgique. At the age of 19, he designed the Howell County Courthouse built in 1882, a job for which he received \$200 for his plans and specifications.<sup>17</sup> The Howell County Courthouse design was his first courthouse design and one of his earliest commissions.

Between 1882 and 1924, Hohenschild designed more than 13 county courthouses in Missouri making him one of the state's most prolific courthouse architects. Some of his courthouse design work includes: the Shannon County Courthouse (1898); the Pemiscot County Courthouse (1924); the Pulaski County Courthouse (1903: NRHP 7/17/79); the Scott County Courthouse (1911: NRHP 1/28/2004); the Pike County Courthouse (1917); the Osage County Courthouse (1923); the Barry County Courthouse (1913); and the Christian County Courthouse (1919) in the Ozark Courthouse Square Historic District (NRHP 02/05/2009).

<sup>15</sup> Personal Communication: Marvin Wright, Washington County Presiding Commissioner, March 14, 2011.

<sup>16</sup> Personal Communication: Chris, Washington County Prosecutor, February 25, 2011.

<sup>17</sup> Ohman, Marian M. A History of Missouri Counties, County Seats and Courthouse Squares. Columbia: University of Missouri Extension Division, 1981. The Hohenschild designed Howell County Courthouse was irreparably damaged by an explosion in the 1920s and replaced by a WPA funded building in 1937.

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**Washington County Courthouse  
Washington County, Missouri**

Henry H. Hohenschild served in the Missouri General Assembly and during his term was designated as architect for the state of Missouri and as such he designed several buildings for state agencies and institutions. Those buildings that he designed exemplified his versatility in other forms of architectural styles. In 1900 the Missouri State Legislature appropriated \$9,350 to construct several buildings of "first class quality" that would house an Administration Building, a house for the manager, a cottage for the superintendent, and a barn all of which were associated with the Missouri State Fruit Experiment Station. The design of this historic station was awarded to Henry H. Hohenschild which he designed in a Colonial Revival vein.<sup>18</sup> Following the Experimental Station project, Hohenschild designed the Ralph E. Burley House (NRHP 07/07/1994) in the same Colonial Revival style.

Although he resigned in 1917 as a member of the American Institute of Architects amidst an "unauthorized competition" allegation by that organization,<sup>19</sup> Hohenschild continued to make significant contributions to American architecture. His contribution to the type of courthouse buildings constructed all over State of Missouri counties is a testament to the fact that he was fluent with a variety of late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century styles including Italian Renaissance Revival Style, Georgian Revival, Late Victorian, Colonial Revival, and Romanesque or Richardsonian Romanesque vein. While the Scott County Courthouse and the Experimental Station project are often sited as showing Hohenschild at his best, the Washington County Courthouse is an important component of his overall output and depicts his architectural range.

Even without its association with architect Henry H. Hohenschild, the Washington County Courthouse is significant and eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as an excellent local example of the Italian Renaissance Revival style. The Washington County Courthouse is a solid representative example of late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries' courthouse architecture in Missouri. Despite the various rehabilitation work that it underwent in 1973-74 and 2003 respectively, the Washington County Courthouse has maintained its original appearance, the ambiance of its period of significance, and a preponderance of historic materials are intact throughout the building.

Politics/Government Significance

The current Washington County Courthouse is significant under Criterion A because it remains an important political, judicial and administrative center since its construction over 100 years ago. Currently, the Washington County Courthouse houses the Circuit Court, the County Court, the Magistrate Court, the Prosecutor, Victim and Witness Services Offices, the Jury Deliberation Room and the Judges Chambers. The courthouse also houses offices of the Circuit Clerk, the County Commission, the County Clerk, the County Collector and the Circuit Judges Courtroom. The Courthouse also provides office spaces for the County Assessors, the Recorder of Deeds and the County mapping room. The Circuit Court, the Recorder of Deeds and the County Clerk offices are thought to have maintained their historic space assignments.

<sup>18</sup> Gilmore, Robert. The Missouri State Fruit Experiment Station. Ozarks Watch, Vol. III, No. 3, Winter 1990.

<sup>19</sup> The American Institute of Architects. The Octagon. Washington, D.C., October 10, 1917.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10

**Washington County Courthouse  
Washington County, Missouri**

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The present administrative structure of the courthouse is made up of a presiding commissioner, a commissioner for roads and bridges for district 1, and another commissioner for roads and bridges for district 2. The role of the commission is largely that of budgeting and overseeing the repair and maintenance of county roads and bridges. The commission meets regularly to deliberate and make major decisions relating to county operations.

Since its construction in 1908 and throughout its period of significance, the Washington County courthouse has continued to serve Washington County citizenry politically, judicially and administratively. The Courthouse has been and still is where residents of Washington County vote, pay taxes, record land purchases, marriages, divorces, adoptions, attend court on both civil and criminal level, and attend county meetings. Many civic organizations utilize the County Courthouse for meetings after regular business hours. The Justice Center uses the downstairs portion of the Courthouse for their monthly meetings; the Veteran's association uses the Courthouse lawns for veteran's day festivities; the Senior Citizen's Club holds their monthly club meetings inside the Courthouse.

The anticipated installation of an elevator inside the Courthouse will help provide better access to all Washington County citizens including the disabled seeking to access all three levels of the Courthouse for any civic and social activities and should assure its continued public use by for many years to come.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 11

Washington County Courthouse  
Washington County, Missouri

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**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES**

Gilmore, Robert. The Missouri State Fruit Experiment Station. Ozark swatch, Vol. III, No. 3, Winter 1990.

*History of Franklin, Jefferson, Washington, Crawford and Gasconade Counties, Missouri*. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889. Reprint Ramfre Press, 1958.

Ohman, Marian M. A History of Missouri Counties, County Seats and Courthouse Squares. Columbia: University of Missouri Extension Division, 1981.

(Potosi) *Weekly-Independent*. April 8-Dec. 2, 1897; Jan. 12-Nov. 21, 1907; March 25, July 23 1908.

*Potosi Journal*, March 6-Nov. 20, 1907; March 25, Sept. 23, 1908.

*Potosi Journal*, March 6-Nov. 20, 1907.

Personal Communication: Marvin Wright, Washington County Presiding Commissioner, March 14, 2011.

Personal Communication: Chris, Washington County Prosecutor, February 25, 2011.

Sandborn Map Citation info

July 1908 <http://cdm.sos.mo.gov/u/?sanbornmaps,4953>

June 1886 <http://cdm.sos.mo.gov/u/?sanbornmaps,4948>

Schoolcraft, Henry Rowe. *A View of Lead Mines of Missouri*. New York: Charles Wiley and Company, 1819.

[Showalter, George W]. Potosi. *Potosi Bicentennial 1763-1963: "The Independent Journal"* – Reprint Edition 1997.

The American Institute of Architects. The Octagon. Washington, D.C., October 10, 1917.

Washington County Courthouse. Mine Au Breton Historical Society Orientation Meeting Minutes. March 17, 1981.

**Washington County Courthouse**

**Washington County, MO**

Name of Property

County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Less than one acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>694384</u>	<u>4201099</u>	3	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	4	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Ike Francis, Project Manager

organization Mustardseed Cultural & Environmental Services, LLC. date April 19, 2011

street & number 222 W. Gregory Blvd., Ste. 211 telephone 816-333-2424

city or town Kansas City state MO zip code 64114

e-mail ifrancis@m-c-e-services.net

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Photographs.**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Property Owner:**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Washington County, Missouri

street & number 102 North Missouri Street telephone 573-438-4346

city or town Potosi state MO zip code 63664

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 12

**Washington County Courthouse  
Washington County, Missouri**

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**Verbal Boundary Description:** Beginning 65 feet north of the southwest corner of Main (HYW8) Street proceed east 145 feet, thence 120 feet north, thence west 145 feet, thence 120 feet to the beginning. The boundary of the nominated property includes only the 120 x 145-foot lot on which the courthouse stands.

**Boundary Justification:** The boundary encompasses the rectangular tract associated historically with the nominated property. A number of minor objects: a veteran's memorial, a plaque, a flag pole, handicap accessible water fountains, a trash can, and a post office box, are included within the boundary but are not significant in size or scale and are not associated with the significance of the nominated property.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photo Log Page 13

**Washington County Courthouse  
Washington County, Missouri**

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**Exterior**

- 1 of 13: SE elevation detail of entrance; photographer facing northwest.
- 2 of 13: NW elevation detail of Courthouse; photographer facing southeast.
- 3 of 13: NE elevation detail of Courthouse; photographer facing southwest.
- 4 of 13: SW elevation detail of Courthouse; photographer facing northeast.
- 5 of 13: Detail of emergency exit door at the NE elevation of Courthouse.
- 6 of 13: Detail of canopy of the entrance to the Courthouse.
- 7 of 13: Detail decorative façade attached to the Courthouse canopy column.

**Interior**

- 8 of 13: Detail of interior hallway of Courthouse; photographer facing northeast.
- 9 of 13: Interior entrance doorway to the NW end of Courthouse; photographer facing northwest.
- 10 of 13: Detail of Courthouse millwork; photographer facing northwest.
- 11 of 13: Detail of interior main stair of Courthouse; photographer facing northeast.
- 12 of 13: Detail of original arched balcony windows and "custom" stair.
- 13 of 13: Detail of original vault door; photographer facing northwest.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 14

**Washington County Courthouse**  
**Washington County, Missouri**

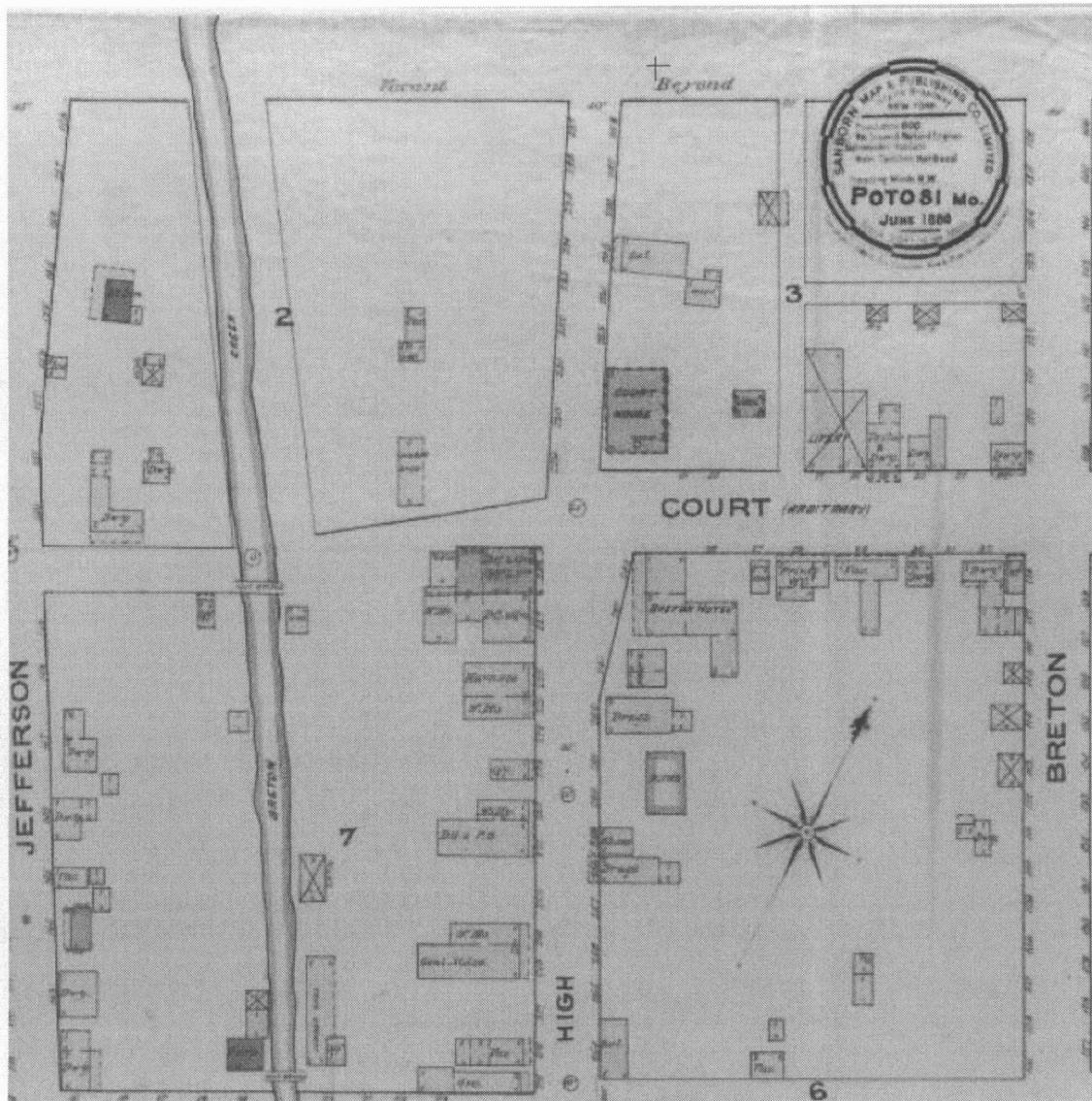


Figure 1: Potosi Sanborn Map, June 1886, showing previous courthouse.  
<http://cdm.sos.mo.gov/u/?sandbornmaps,4948>

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 15

**Washington County Courthouse**  
**Washington County, Missouri**

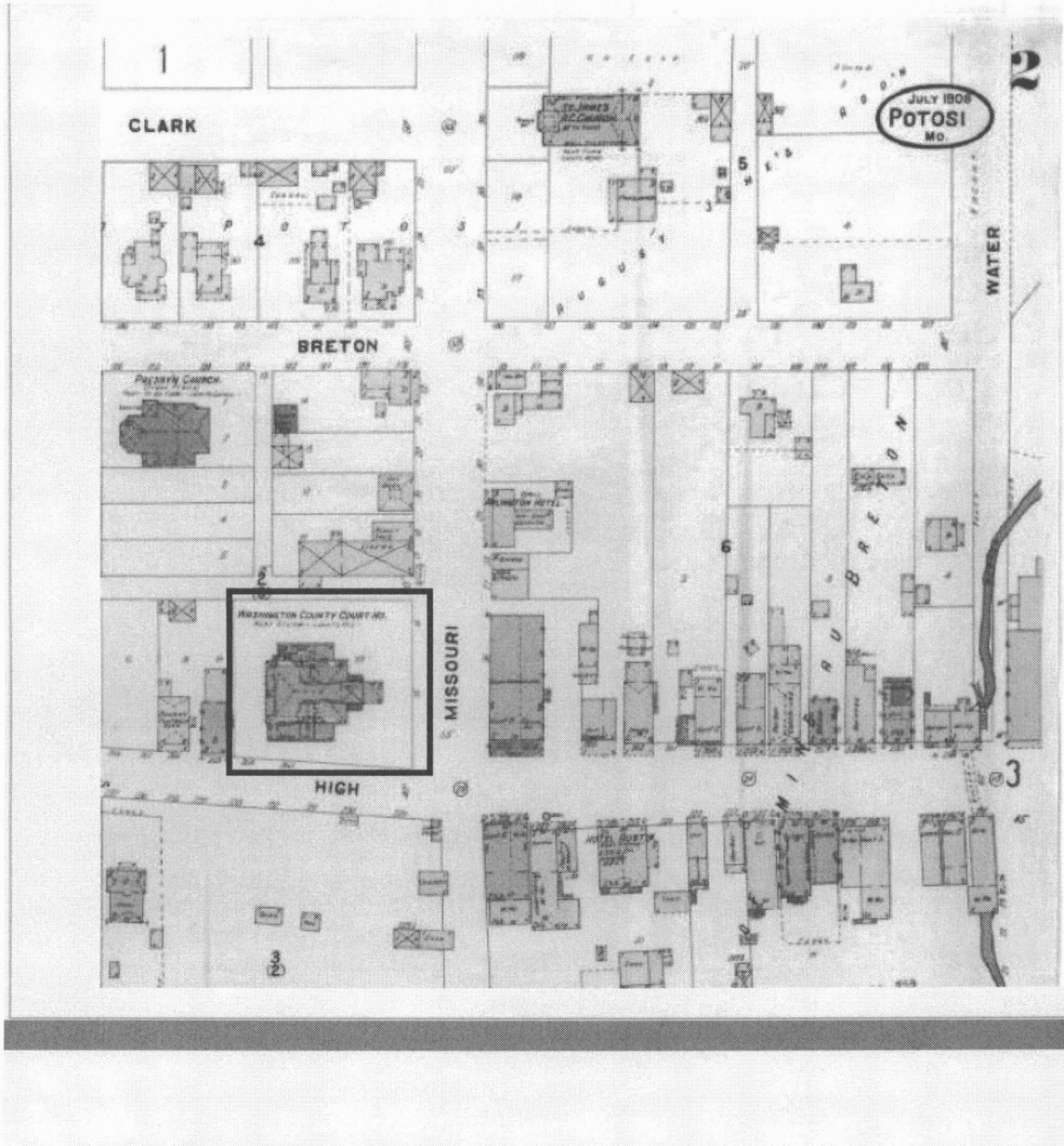


Figure 2: Potosi Sanborn Map, July 1908 showing location of current courthouse.  
<http://cdm.sos.mo.gov/u/?sandbornmaps,4953>

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 16

Washington County Courthouse  
Washington County, Missouri

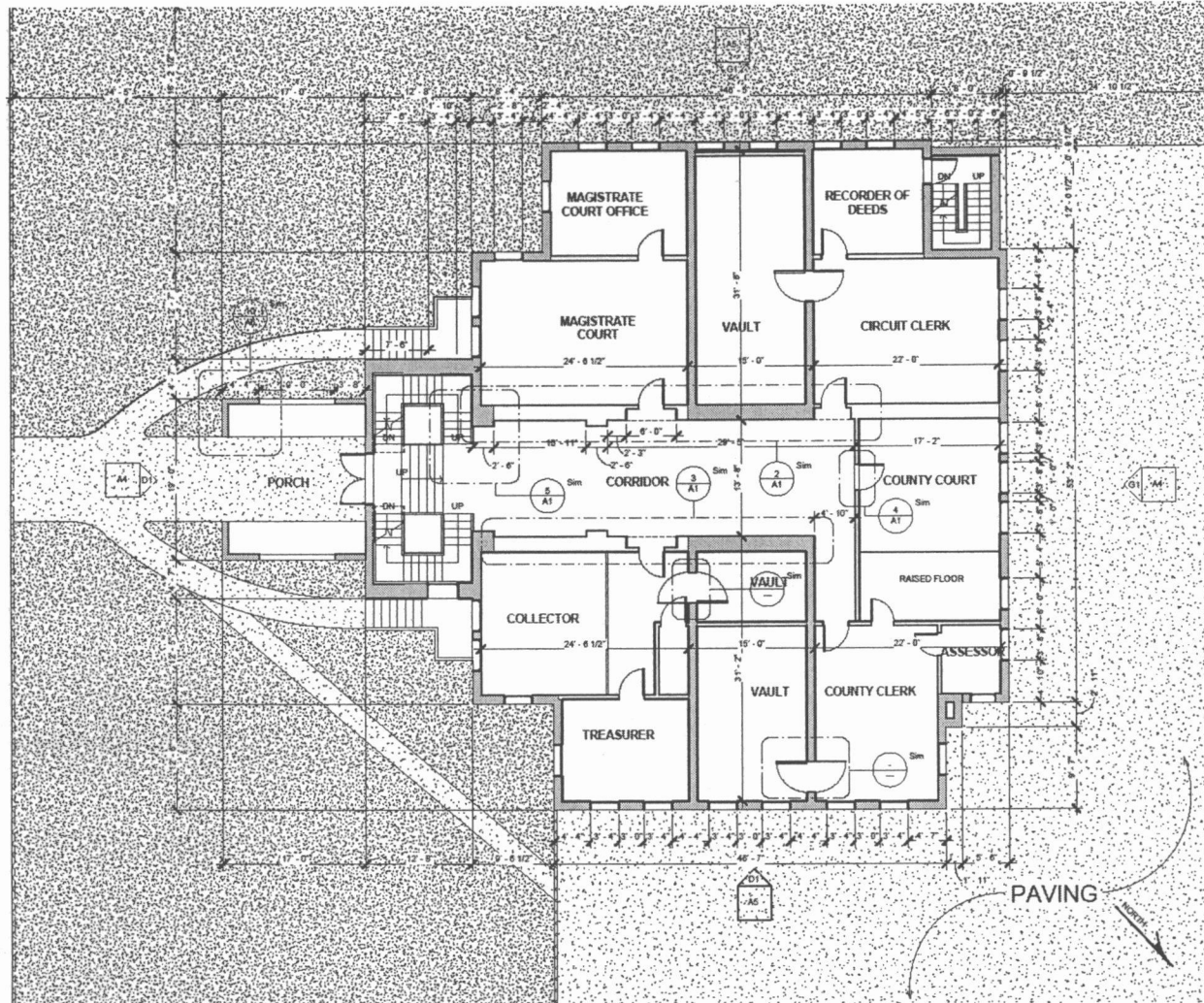


Figure 3: First Floor Plan, Washington County Courthouse, Tompkins Architects.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 17

Washington County Courthouse  
Washington County, Missouri

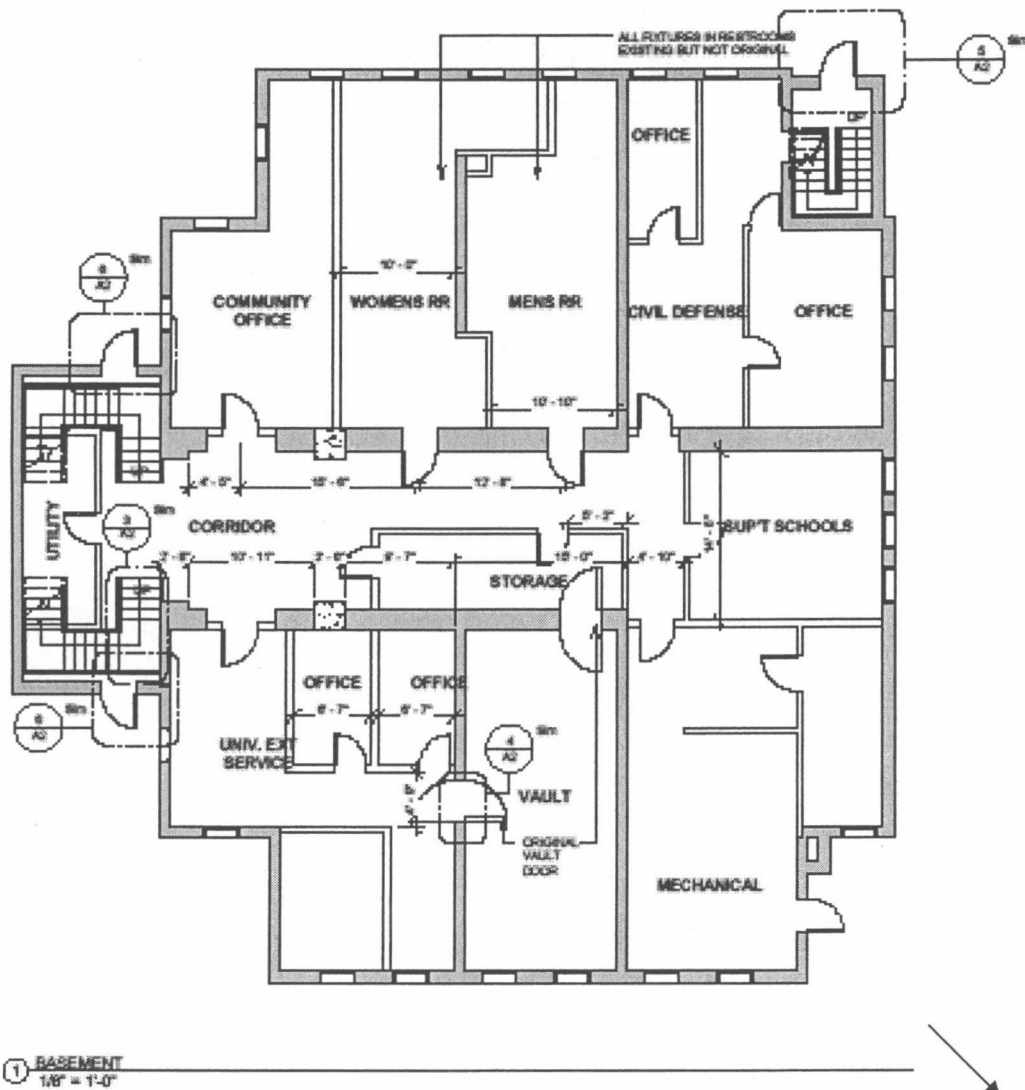


Figure 4: Basement Plan, Washington County Courthouse, Tompkins Architects.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 18

Washington County Courthouse  
Washington County, Missouri

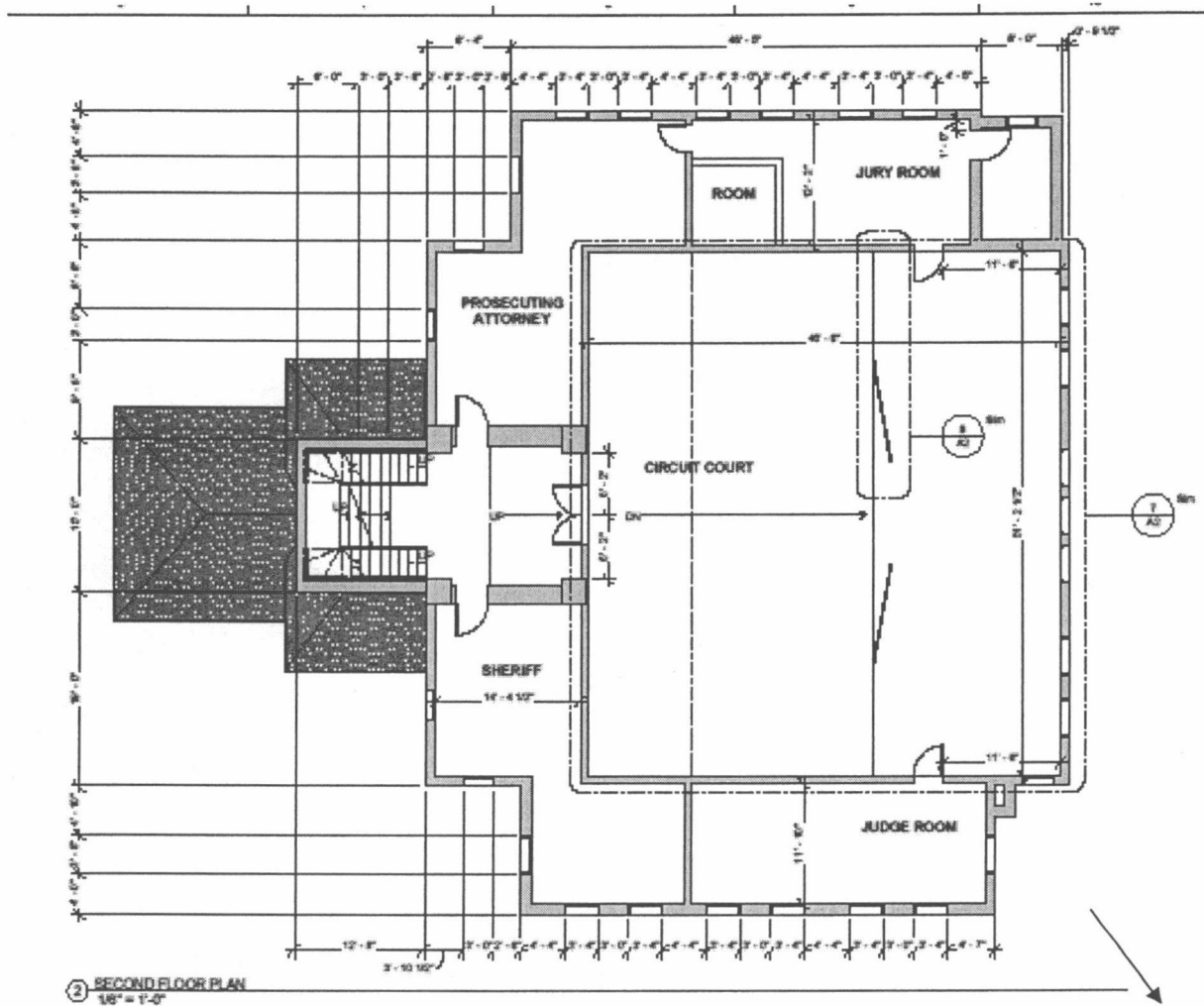


Figure 5: Second Floor Plan, Washington County Courthouse, Tompkins Architects

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Washington County Courthouse  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MISSOURI, Washington

DATE RECEIVED: 9/16/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/07/11  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/24/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/01/11  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000765

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 10-25-11 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Washington County Courthouse; Washington County, MO Photo # 1 of 13

All Windows are metal Replacement windows

All windows are metal Replacement Windows



Washington County Courthouse, Washington County, MO. Photo # 2 of 13



RESERVED  
PARKING  
CREDIT  
CLERK

RESERVED

RESERVED  
PARKING  
CREDIT  
CLERK

GENERAC

ALTIMA


SA5-J1Z

2.5S

YUKON XL

GEN

WE4-F4P



Washington County Courthouse; Washington County, MO. Photo # 3 of 13



Washington County Courthouse; Washington County, Missouri. Photo #4 of 13



SECURITY NOTICE



CONCEALED  
FIREARMS ARE  
PROHIBITED IN  
THIS FACILITY

Washington County Courthouse; Washington County, MO. Photo # 5 of 13

RENOVATED 1973-74  
FINANCED WITH FEDERAL  
REVENUE SHARING FUNDS  
THOMAS W. BRICKLEY  
JESSE D. SOMMER  
BERT C. BRINLEY

HANDICAPPED  
ENTRANCE

SECURITY NOTICE  
CONCEALED  
FIREARMS ARE  
PROHIBITED IN  
THIS FACILITY

THOMAS W. BRICKLEY  
JESSE D. SOMMER  
BERT C. BRINLEY

THOMAS W. BRICKLEY  
JESSE D. SOMMER  
BERT C. BRINLEY

Washington County Courthouse; Washington County, MO. Photo #6 of 13







Washington County Courthouse; Washington County, Mo. Photo #8 of 13



Washington County Courthouse; Washington County, MO. Photo #9 of 13



Washington County Courthouse; Washington County, MO. Photo # 10 of 13



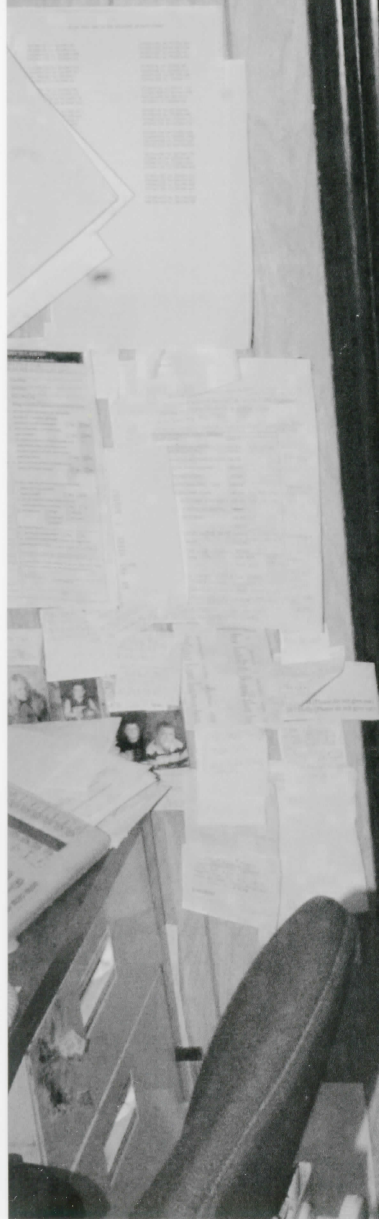
Washington County Courthouse; Washington County, MO. Photo # 11 of 13



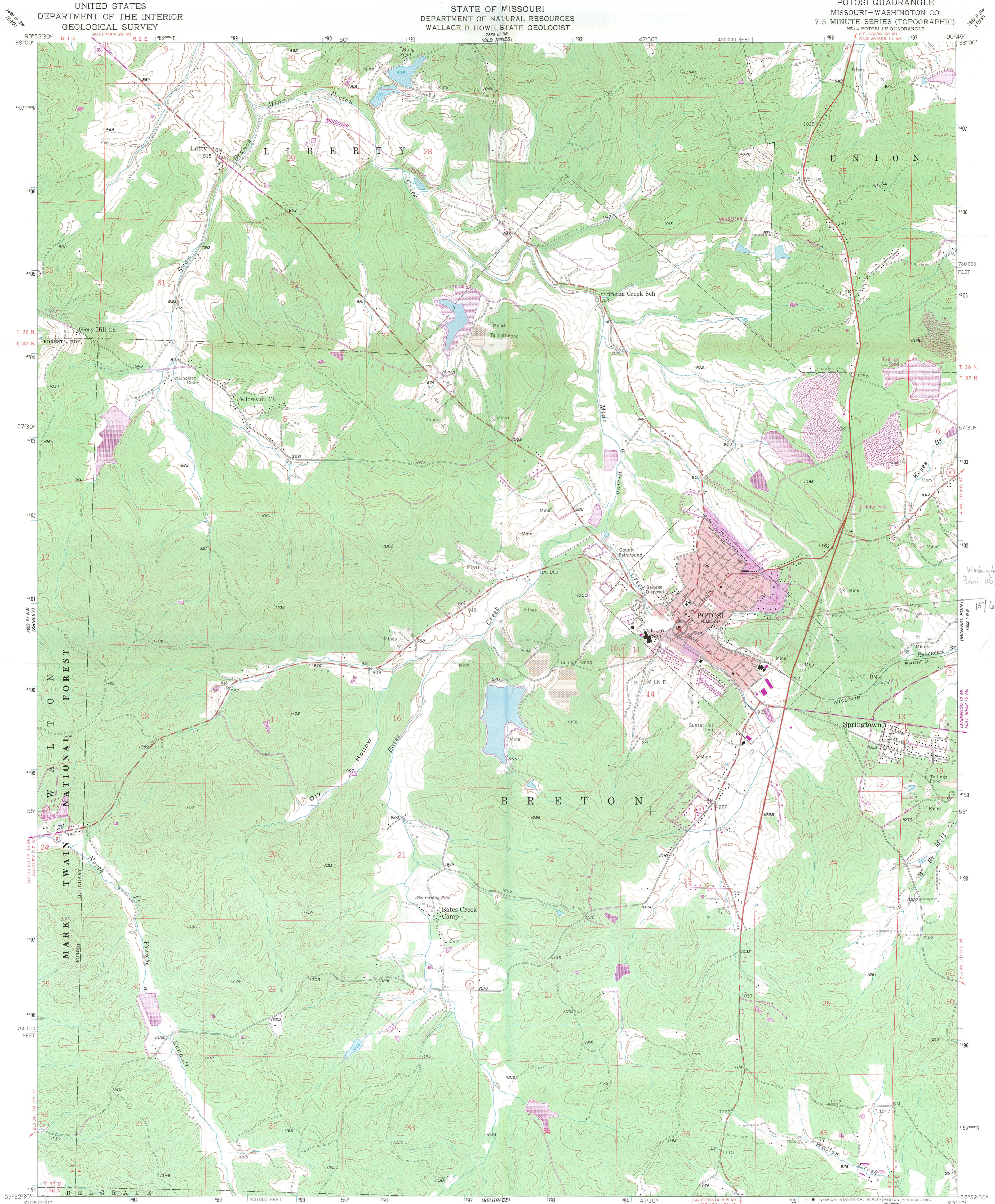
Washington County Courthouse; Washington County, MO. Photo # 12 of 13

WASHINGTON COUNTY,  
MISSOURI.

HERRING HALL MARYIN SAFE CO.  
ST. LOUIS

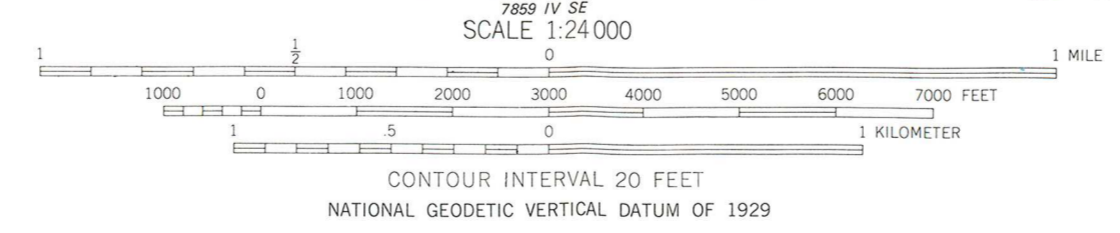
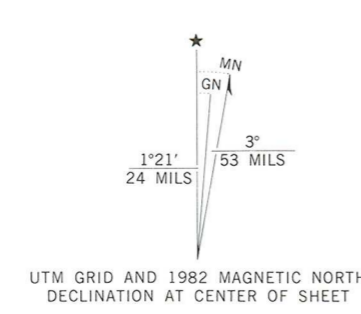


Washington County Courthouse; Washington County, MO. Photo # 13 of 13



Washington County Court house  
Potosi, Washington Co., Missouri  
15/694384  
4201099

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USCGS, and USCE  
Topography from aerial photographs by multiple methods  
Aerial photographs taken 1954. Field check 1958  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Missouri coordinate system, east zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 15, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates area in which only  
landmark buildings are shown  
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983  
move the projection lines 2 meters south and  
10 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of  
the National or State reservations shown on this map



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092,  
AND THE DIVISION OF GEOLOGY AND LAND SURVEY  
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, ROLLA, MISSOURI 65401  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

POTOSI, MO.  
NE 1/4 POTOSI 15' QUADRANGLE  
N 3752.5—W 9045/7.5  
1958  
PHOTOREVISED 1982  
DMA 7859 IV NE—SERIES V879

QUADRANGLE LOCATION  
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial  
photographs taken 1978. Map edited 1982  
This information not field checked  
Purple tint indicates extension of urban area



Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon, Governor • Sara Parker Pauley, Director

RECEIVED 2280

SEP 16 2011

NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

www.dnr.mo.gov

September 9, 2011

Ms. Carol Shull  
United States Dept. of the Interior  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 "I" Street NW, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Please find enclosed the following submission from Missouri for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places:

Washington County Courthouse  
Washington County, Missouri

Our state review board, the Missouri Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, approved the above nomination on August 12, 2011. All owners and appropriate elected public officials were notified and provided at least thirty (30) days to comment on the above proposed nomination in accordance with Section 36CFR60.6, interim regulations, using the exact notification format recommended by the National Register. No objections were received.

If you have any questions concerning this submission, please contact Tiffany Patterson of my staff at 573/751-7800, [tiffany.patterson@dnr.mo.gov](mailto:tiffany.patterson@dnr.mo.gov), or at the State Historic Preservation Office, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

Sincerely,

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

Mark A. Miles, Director and  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures: as stated