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RECEIVED
DEC 1 1911
NATIONAL
REGISTER

HALIFAX COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Historical Sketch

Halifax County was formed from Edgecombe in 1758. Its first courthouse was built in the town of Halifax in the following year. It was replaced by a second courthouse in 1847.¹

In 1909 the county commissioners selected the architectural firm of Wheeler and Stern to prepare the plans for a new courthouse and declared that the new building was "to begin 4 feet from the South-west corner of the old court house." The county sold \$40,000 worth of bonds to finance the construction of the new building which was completed in 1910.²

Architectural Description

The Halifax County Courthouse, constructed in 1909, is a three-story tan brick Neo-Classical Revival building located on the town square of Halifax. The imposing structure is surrounded by residential as well as commercial structures. The complex design is composed of a three-story square core fronted by a tetrastyle Corinthian portico and flanked by two-story flat roofed wings. A two-stage cupola surmounts the shallow mansard roof of the central core, and serves as the focal point of the Halifax skyline. The polygonal base of the tower is pierced by round arches filled with louvers and glass. The faces which have windows are pedimented. A domical roof with clocks on four sides terminates the cupola.

The courthouse rests on a high molded stone base. Round arched windows are contained on the second floor main facade, while linteled ones are employed elsewhere. A heavy dentil and modillion cornice caps the building and forms a pediment above the south portico. Attached to the east side is a recent addition which does not relate to the original building.

The interior floor plan is arranged by cross halls dividing the offices. Remodelings have not detracted severely from the original character of the courthouse, and many original features, such as paneled doors, pressed tin ceilings, and iron stair railings remain. The courtroom, located on the second floor, has received the most extensive alterations. Most of the finish is modern, yet a few turn-of-the-century features remain. A brass rail which partitions the gallery from the bench is intact, as well as the bench, which is a flat paneled classical desk ornamented with pilasters, applied triglyphs, guttae, and bosses.

¹Crittenden and Lacy, eds., Historical Records, II, p. 235.

²Halifax County, Minutes of the Board of County Commissioners, April 15, July 5, October 4, 1909, April 11, September 5, 1910.

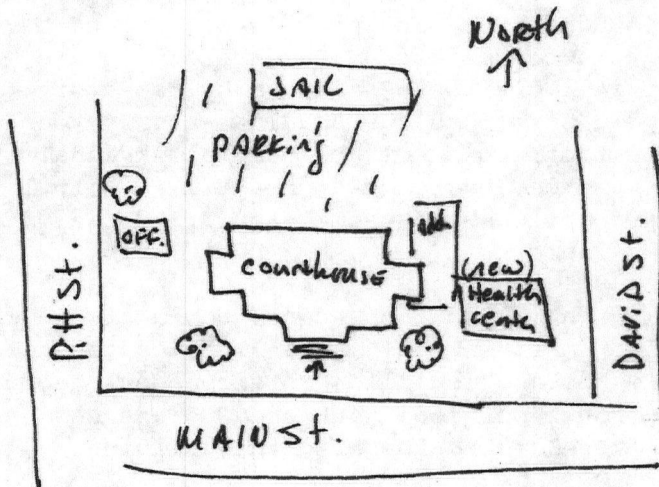
The courthouse shares its well shaded square with the county jail, health center, and county clerk's office. The clerk's office is a Victorian brick cottage with a square central tower. The courthouse towers above the small scaled buildings of Halifax, and its commanding classical design is obviously the landmark of the town.

Address: Harry A. Branch, Chairman, Halifax County Commissioners, Halifax County Courthouse, Halifax, N.C. 27839

Acreage: less than 1 acre

UTM reference: 17/267520/4023350

Verbal Boundary Description: The Courthouse square is bounded by David Street to the east, Pitt Street to the west, Main street to the south, and parking lots and the county jail to the north.



Property

North Carolina Courthouses Thematic Group

State

N.C.

Working Number

12.12.78.4763

TECHNICAL

Photos

#62

Maps

57

CONTROL

OK 12.14.78

57 county courthouses ranging from early 19th century to 1930s. Significant in long time associations with ~~the~~ commercial, political and legal activities in the Communist and regions they serve. Some questions in integrity of subject, justification in 1930s examples. Needs call for minimal information. *CAVE / ACCEPT* *DUBIE* *3/6/79*

HISTORIAN

The inventory forms contain adequate descriptions and statements of significance yet lack conveyance of the character skills and some importance of many buildings are being nominated. *I think we should return for proper completion.* *READ* *3/6/79*

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

1930's structures justified in continuation sheets; additional photos received. Brunswick Co. Courthouse has suffered some loss of integrity but retains missing fenestration, belfry symbolizing public building - would accept but defer to architectural historian opinion. *ACCEPT* *5/8/79* *DUBIE*

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Articulate presentation of significance of these courthouses. *Accept* *Lebovich* *5/10/79*
one apparently eligible property held back because of county opposition, but I cannot see rejecting entire thematic of exclusion of one property.

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

6-5-79

Send-back

Entered

MAY 10 1979

Federal Register Entry

Re-submit

5/10/79



NEGATIVE NUMBER N-77-1-172 DEC 12 1978

PHOTOGRAPHER Mary Lee MAY 10 1979

PHOTO DATE Jan 1977

SUBJECT Alifay Co. Courthouse

North Carolina Courthouses
Thematic Group - ~~Blamane~~ ^{Currituck} County

FROM DIVISION OF
ARCHIVES & HISTORY,
RALEIGH, N. C.

20 of 12

MAY 22 1980

JAN 20 1978

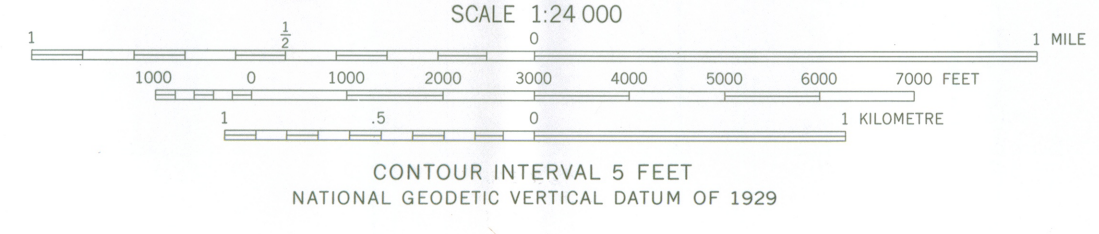
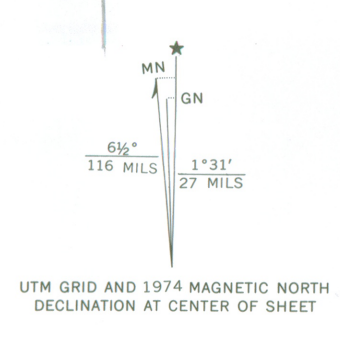
H. Fay

PRINT BY
HISTORIC PRESERVATION SECTION



Halifax County Courthouse
Halifax, North Carolina
UTM Reference
17/267520/4023350
UTM Easting = 171161.07
UTM Northing = 4023544

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1974. Field checked 1974
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: North Carolina coordinate system (Lambert conformal conic)
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue. 1927 North American datum
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



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

RECEIVED
DEC 12 1976
NATIONAL REGISTER
QUADRANGLE LOCATION REGISTER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

HALIFAX, N. C.
N3615-W7730/7.5
1974
AMS 5456 I SE-SERIES V842

