

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
Warren County Courthouse and Circuit Court Building

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Warrenton

STATE Missouri	CODE 63383	COUNTY: Warren	CODE 219
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3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
County of Warren

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Warrenton

STATE: Missouri	CODE 63383
	29

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Office of Recorder of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
Warren County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Warrenton

STATE: Missouri	CODE 63383
	29

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue

DATE OF SURVEY:
1963 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
State Historical Society of Missouri

STREET AND NUMBER:
Hitt and Lowry streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Columbia

STATE: Missouri	CODE 65201
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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6.

WARREN COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND CIRCUIT COURT BUILDING

Missouri State Historical Survey (state)

1971

Missouri State Park Board

P.O. Box 176

1204 Jefferson Building

Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Code: 29

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Warren County Courthouse and Circuit Court Building, constructed in the geographical center of old Warrenton, are fronted by the Boonslick Road. The Courthouse is a two-story, red-brick structure exhibiting classic revival characteristics, including symmetrical plan, cast-iron columns, rounded-arch windows, and recessed arch doors at the front entrance. The building is constructed on the old ashlar foundation of the original courthouse and is topped by a hip-roof shingled in slate. The ground floor houses the county court, offices of the probate judge, magistrate judge, county clerk, collector, assessor, treasurer, and county engineer, while the second story contains a circuit court room, jury room, and office of the prosecuting attorney.

The front and side elevations of the Warren County Courthouse appear to be symmetrical and equidimensional. A portico supported by four corinthian columns frames the entranceway on the first floor, and a small, wooden tin-sheathed cupola projects from the center of the roof. Both side elevations are similar in design, and no appendages appear to have been added or removed. Double-sash windows are used throughout the building, 6-over-4 lights on second story, 4-over-4 on the first floor. Rounded-arches embellish the upper-floor windows while less ornamental segmental-arches with keystones appear on the ground-level. The eaves project slightly. The front entrance consists of three independent doorways topped by rounded-arches. The entire structure measures approximately 45 by 55 feet and is situated on the northeast portion of the square.

The Warren County Circuit Court building, a companion building to the courthouse, exhibits similar roof style and is constructed of identical building materials. The smaller structure, flanking the courthouse to the west, is of brick and the walls, including interior walls, are 18 inches thick. The eight windows have no locks, but are secured by iron shutters at night. The Circuit Court building contains two small rooms opening from either side of an entrance hallway. One room is an office and reception area while the other houses Circuit Court records. The only woodwork used in this building is window sills and moldings. The Circuit Court office was intended to be completely fireproof.

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7.

WARREN COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND CIRCUIT COURT BUILDING

According to restoration drawings supplied to the Warren County Court by Mr. Gerhardt Kramer, State Preservation Coordinator, American Institute of Architects, the courthouse contains a front lobby, court room, and several administrative offices on the first floor. The lobby and court room occupy a central position on this floor. Two large rooms at the east and west sides of the first floor were subdivided in later years to provide additional offices. The "U" stairway connecting the two floors appears to be original.

The second floor houses the circuit court chamber, with the main courtroom occupying most of the south portion of the floor. Entrance to the Court is obtained through a hallway which connects that room to the stairway. Flanking the corridor are jury rooms and other legal offices. Woodwork throughout appears to be walnut or a similar hardwood, and floors are wooden but covered with linoleum tile.

6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1869-1871

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Warren County Courthouse is historically significant since the location of the courthouse at Warrenton was catalytic to the town's development. Warrenton was platted specifically to attract the seat of justice, and town lots were not sold until construction of the courthouse began. Furthermore, the establishment of a county seat at Warrenton in opposition to the Missouri River town of New Boston (near the present site of Hopewell, Missouri) demonstrated an economic transition within Warren County from dependence upon commerce with the upper Missouri Valley and the increasing establishment of a landed agricultural population in the interior. Warren County's first settlement was a French trading post established during 1804. But the original homesteaders were Americans who had clustered at Flanders Calaway's post near Marthasville by 1806. ("Seventy-Fifth Anniversary Historical Edition," Warrenton Banner, December 8, 1914). Settlement throughout the area diffused northward from this post until population had become quite evenly distributed. The extension of the Boonslick Road through Montgomery County during the 1810's especially stimulated development of the interior, and, as a consequence, at the time the county was organized, a majority of the residents demanded a courthouse near the population center in an interior township. (Historical Atlas of Warren County, Missouri, 1877, p. 7). The extension of the road and the settlement of inland areas necessitated a central market and seat of justice and likewise heralded the demise of early settlements on the alluvial plain.

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8.

WARREN COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND CIRCUIT COURT BUILDING

In January, 1833, the Missouri Legislature removed the eastern portion of Montgomery County "to be a separate and distinct county, to be known and called by the name of Warren County, in honor of Joseph Warren, who fell at the Battle of Bunker's Hill ..." (Revised Statutes of the State of Missouri to 1835, 1835, p. 140.) Three Legislators, from St. Charles, Montgomery, and Franklin Counties, were appointed commissioners to secure the county seat. In establishing the seat of justice for Warren County, the commissioners decided between a centrally-located tract (later to become Warrenton), and the community of New Boston, on Charette Creek, a tributary to the Missouri River. Although neither town was settled until 1838, both Warrenton and New Boston were platted in 1835 in anticipation of receiving the new courthouse. (Historical Atlas of Warren County, Missouri, 1877, p. 7.) But a county referendum in January, 1836, determined the central tract to be the county seat and the first "Courthouse" was established in a nearby home, pending completion of the original permanent structure in 1839.

The existing Courthouse, an example of classic revival architecture, is the second permanent structure to house Warren County's seat of justice. The 1839 building was razed in 1869 to allow construction of a larger edifice upon the foundation of the old. Construction of the later building began in 1869 and continued through 1871. The current court building was designed by the St. Louis architect, William Brady, and was constructed by Julius Conrad and Company for a total cost of \$40,000. (Missouri State Times, Jefferson City, Missouri, July 2, 1869.) Brady's design was accepted by the County Court in July, 1869, but was amended to provide a foundation five feet above ground, a jail in the basement, and a slab roof. County Court records suggest the new building was completed in May, 1871, since the final payment to Conrad was dated as such.

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8. #2

WARREN COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND CIRCUIT COURT BUILDING

The Circuit Court building at Warrenton was erected in 1866, following the sacking of the Montgomery County seat at Danville during the Civil War. The raid at Danville in 1864 was part of a scheme by Missouri secessionists to destroy civil government in the Unionist counties of east-central Missouri. The destruction of the Danville courthouse prompted Warren County to build the fireproof Circuit Court building to house irreplaceable deed records and other vital statistics in the event Warrenton came under siege. (Dr. Herbert Huckriede, "Early History of Warren County," Official Program and Souvenir of the Warren County Centennial. Warrenton, Missouri: Banner Publishing Co., 1937.) The Circuit Court building therefore pre-dates the courthouse by three years, and obviously the design of the smaller building was duplicated for the seat of justice.

Neither the courthouse at Warrenton nor the Circuit Court building are in immediate danger of demolition, although the County has transferred some court meetings to other quarters and has contemplated destroyed the old courthouse. In 1965, the County Court commissioned Mr. Gerhardt Kramer, FAIA, to study the feasibility of rehabilitating both structures. Prior to Mr. Kramer's study, the Court had declared the court building unsafe to use as a seat of justice. Since 1965, the Warren County Court has ordered four bond issue elections to restore the courthouse as a community center, but all four attempts have failed. It is quite possible that a future referendum or action by the city council could dismiss the idea of a community center and order the destruction of the handsome old Courthouse. Conversely, inclusion in the National Register may stimulate preservation of the building.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
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8.

WARREN COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The design of the Warren County Courthouse suggests that Architect Brady's scheme was not only influenced by the construction of the companion Circuit Court Building, but also by a model for a courthouse provided sixty years previously by Asher Benjamin. (Benjamin, Asher, A New System of Architecture, 1806, plate 42.) Benjamin (1773-1845) designed numerous buildings but his publications were also quite influential in establishing a standard of design "that had a strong influence down to the Civil War." Hamlin, Talbot, Greek Revival Architecture in America, 1964, p. 95.) Asher Benjamin's "Plan and Elevation for a Courthouse", contained in A New System of Architecture, illustrates a scheme which resembles the Warren County Courthouse not only in the arrangement and use of columns, but also in the roof design, placement of windows, and the cupola design.

The possible influence of Benjamin is further illustrated by comparing the Warren County Courthouse and the very similar courthouse in Marshall County, Indiana. (Hermansen, David R., Indiana Courthouses of the Nineteenth Century, Ball State University Lecture Series, 1968, pp. 13, 20.) The Marshall County Courthouse, constructed in 1870, was designed by Gurdon P. Randall (? - 1884), a student of Benjamin. Since Brady and Randall were contemporaries, the architects could have been in communication or they could have derived their design ideas from the same contemporary source.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

An Illustrated Historical Atlas of Warren County, Missouri. Philadelphia: Edwards Brothers, 1877, pp. 7, 9.

Huckriede, Dr. Herbert, "Early History of Warren County", Official Program and Souvenir of the Warren County Centennial. Warrenton, Missouri: Banner Publishing Company, 1937.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38° 48' 39"	91° 08' 57"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Stephen J. Raiche, Research Historian

ORGANIZATION: Missouri State Park Board DATE: March 24, 1971
State Historical Survey and Planning Office

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

CITY OR TOWN: Jefferson City STATE: Missouri CODE: 65101
29

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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

National State Local

Name Joseph Jaeger, Jr.

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

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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9.

WARREN COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND CIRCUIT COURT BUILDING

Kramer, Gerhardt, FAIA, State Preservation Coordinator, American Institute of Architects, letter to the Missouri State Historical Survey and Planning Office, March 18, 1971. On file at Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri, 65101.

Missouri State Times (Jefferson City, Missouri) July 2, 1869.

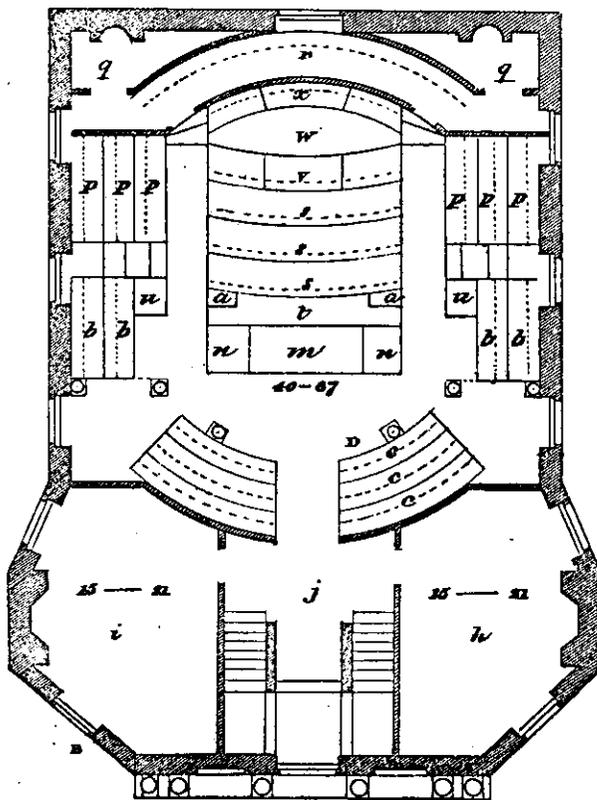
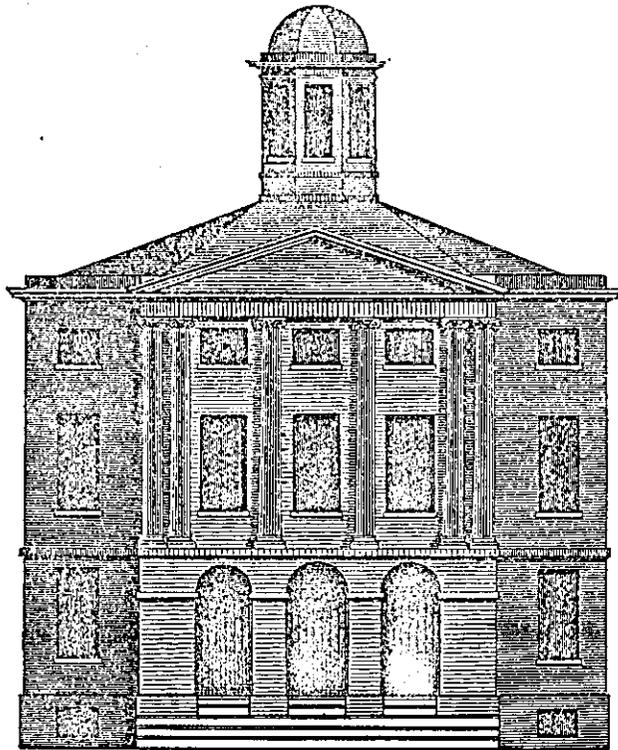
Revised Statutes of the State of Missouri to 1835. St. Louis:
The Argus Office, 1835, p. 140.

"Seventy-fifth Anniversary Historical Edition," Warrenton Banner,
(Warrenton, Missouri), December 8, 1914.

Storment, Mrs. J. C., of Marthasville, Missouri, letter to Mrs. Dorothy Caldwell, State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri, Historic Site File, Ref: Warren County.

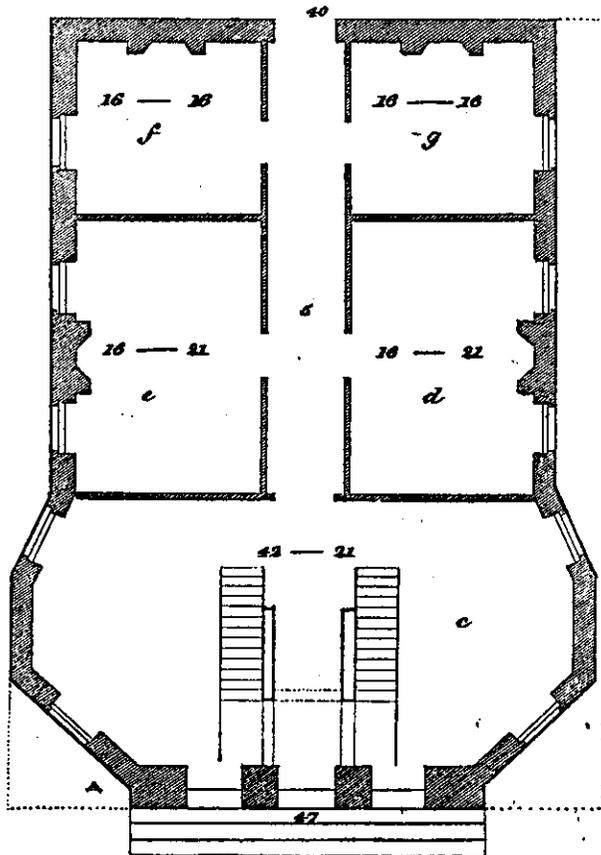
"Warren County Centennial Edition," Marthasville Record,
(Marthasville, Missouri), April 3, 1936.

Warren County, Minutes of the County Court, record books for the years 1869 and 1871.

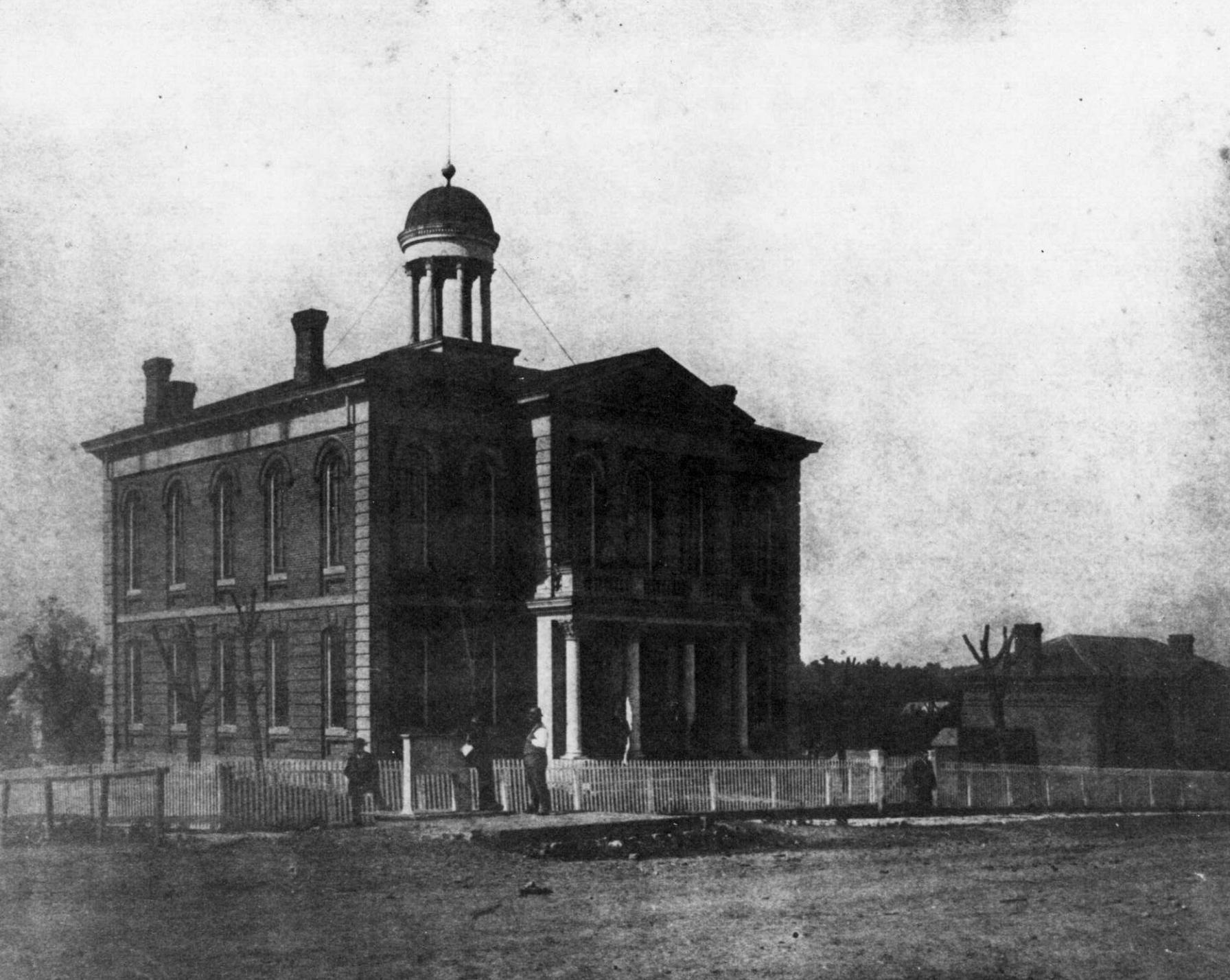


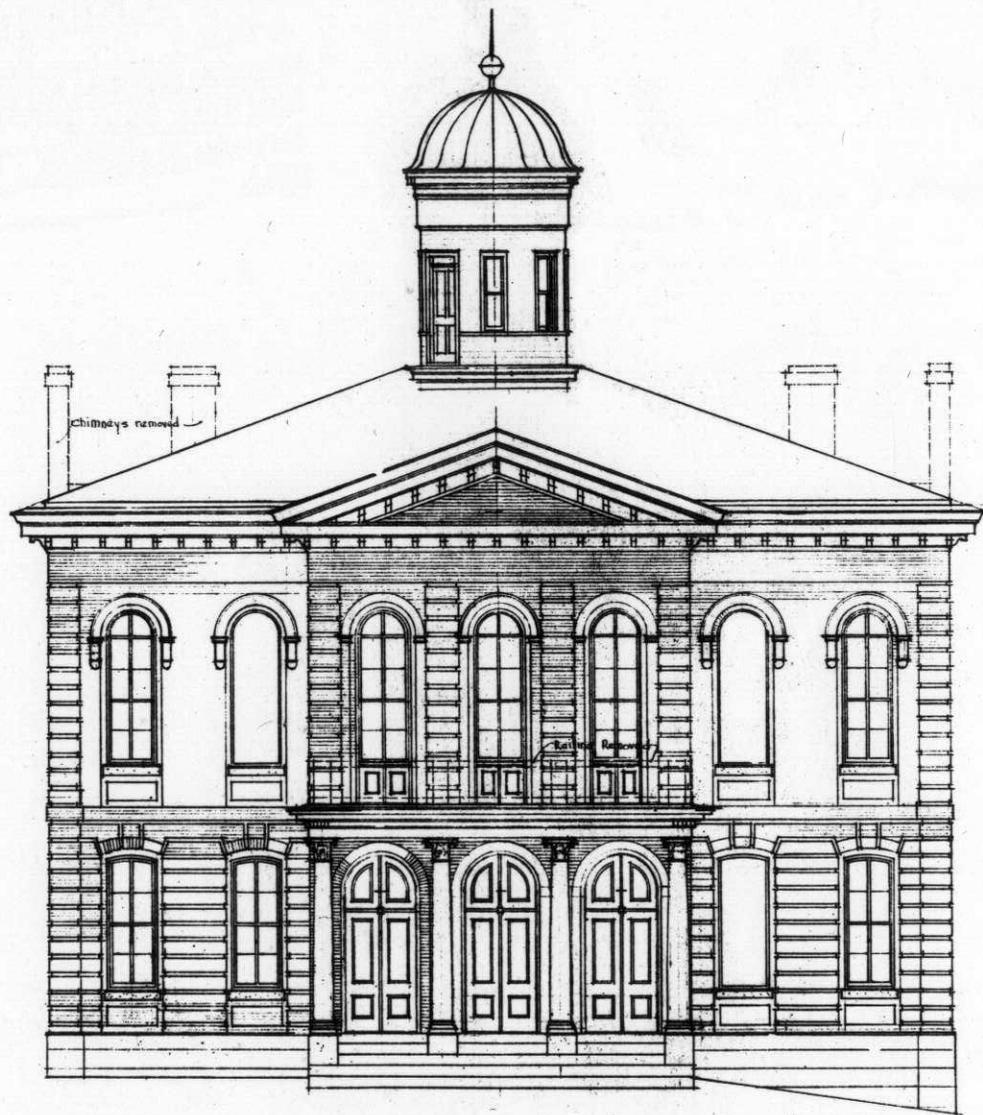
Scale 15 feet to one Inch

A. Benjamin Del.



G. F. Fox Sc.





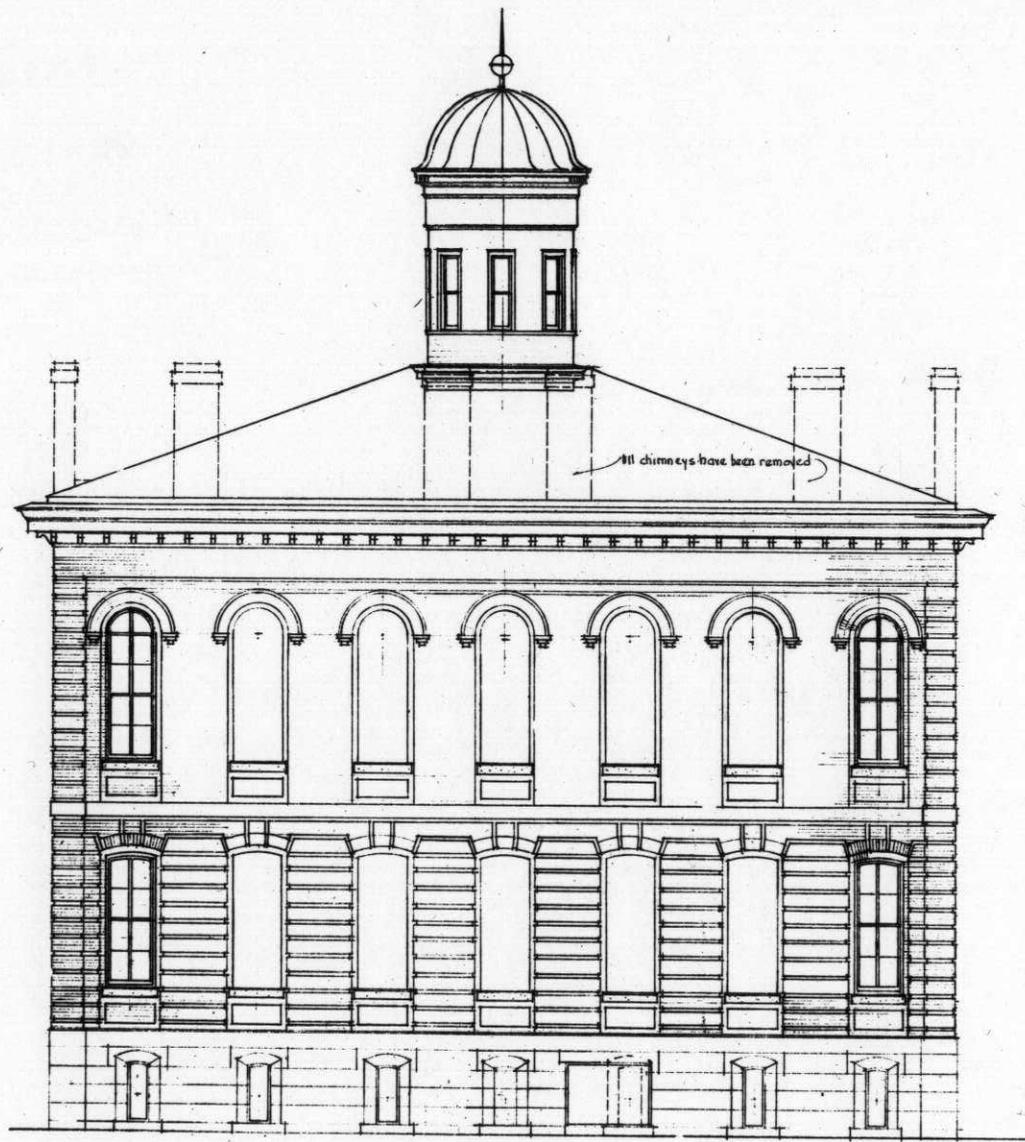
NORTH ELEVATION

THE WARREN COUNTY COURTHOUSE
WARRENTON, MISSOURI

Measured and drawn by:
KRAMER & HARMS, Architects
9640 Clayton Road, St. Louis, Mo. 63124

SHEET 4
of 8

12 March 1965

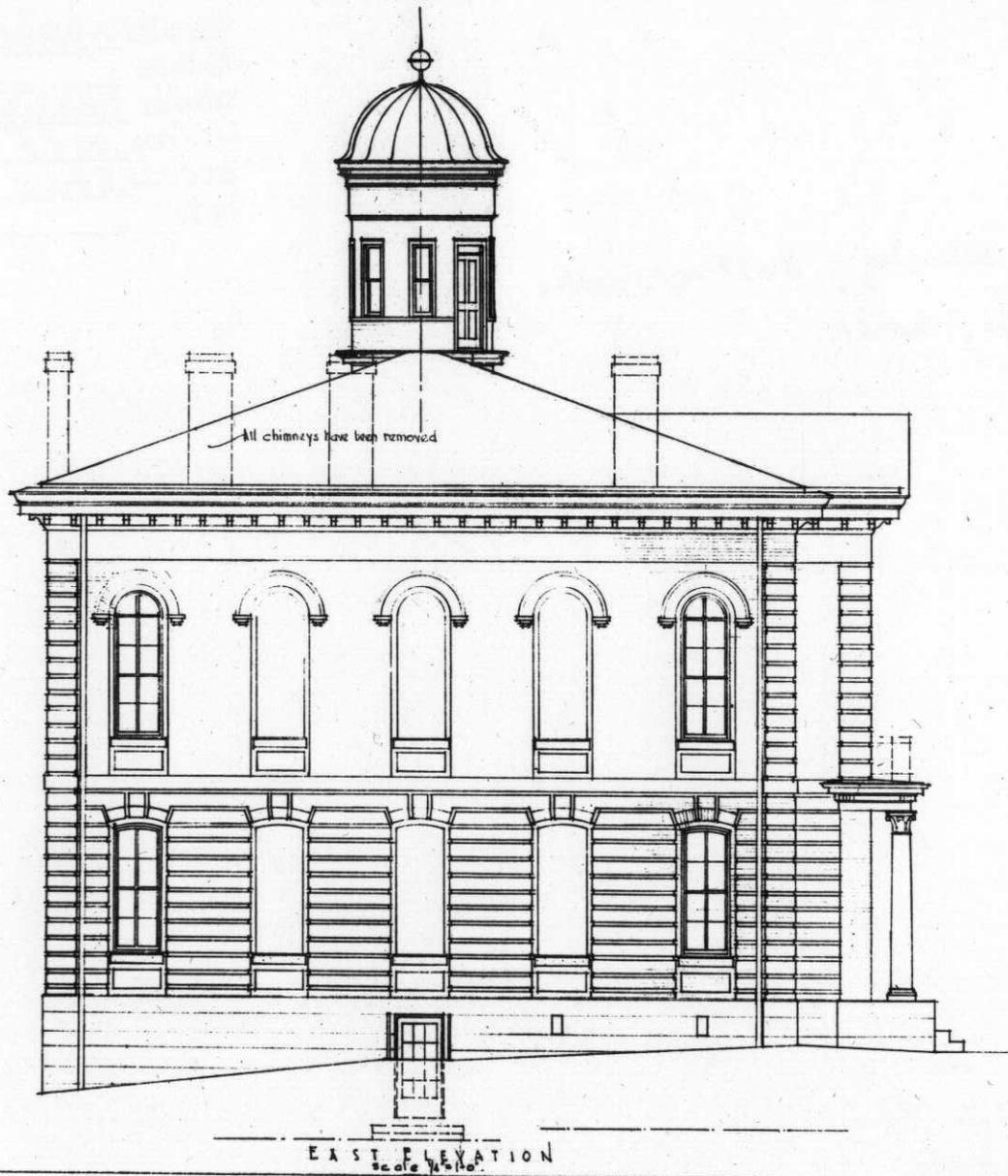


SOUTH ELEVATION
Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"

THE WARREN COUNTY COURTHOUSE
WARRENTON, MISSOURI

SHEET 6
OF 8
12 March 1965

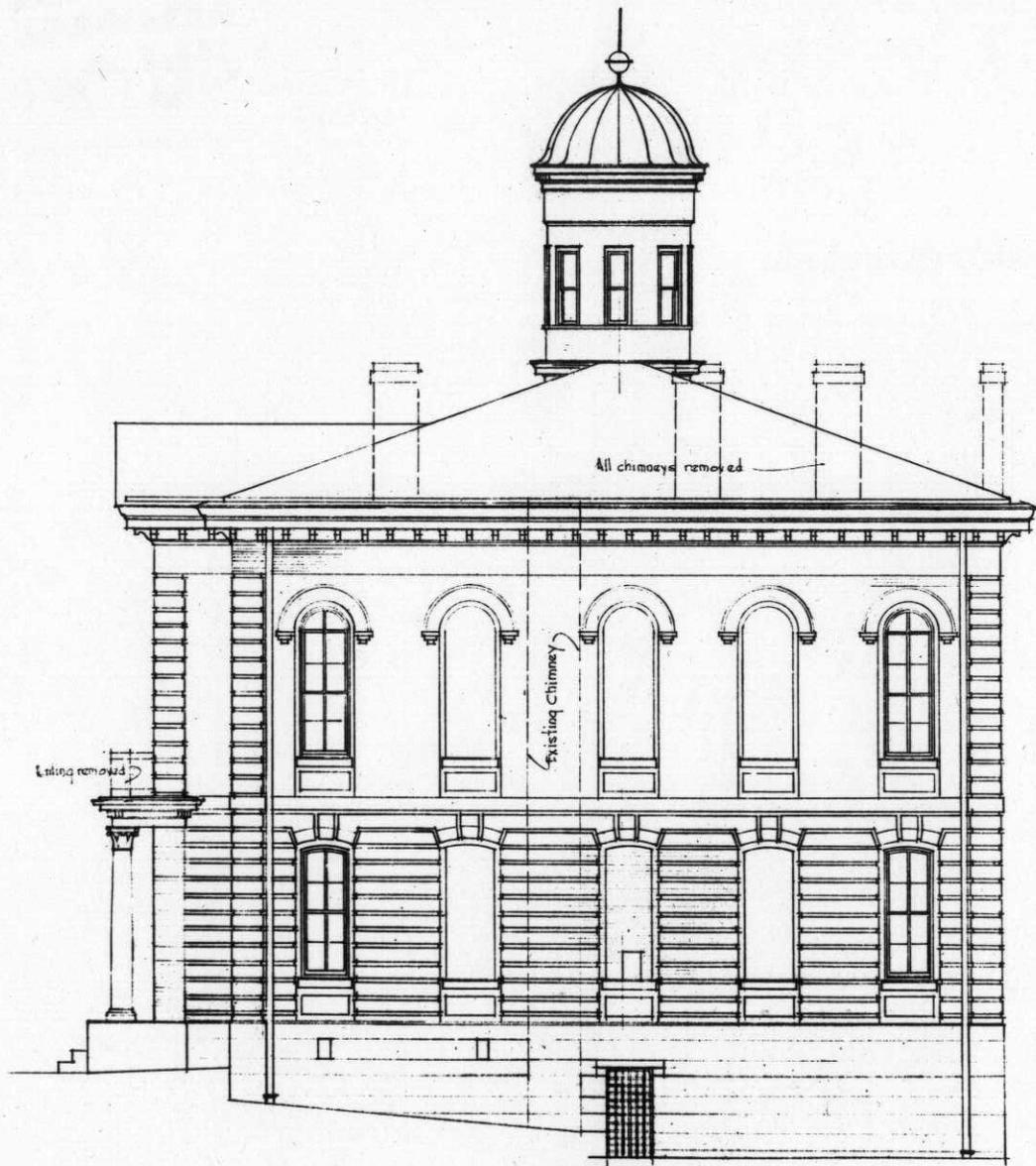
Measured and drawn by:
KRAMER & HARMS, Architects
9640 Clayton Road, St. Louis, Mo. 63124



All chimneys have been removed

EAST ELEVATION
scale 1/4" = 1'-0"

THE WARREN COUNTY COURTHOUSE.
WARRENTON, MISSOURI



WEST ELEVATION

THE WARREN COUNTY COURTHOUSE
WARRENTON, MISSOURI

SHEET 5
OF 8
12 March 1965

Measured and drawn by:
KRAMER & HARMS, Architects
9640 Clayton Road, St. Louis, Mo. 63124



N. MARKET ST.

WARREN COUNTY COURTHOUSE



















N. MARKET ST.