NPS Form 10-900
OMB No. 10024-0018
(Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Bates County Courthouse

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 1 North Delaware [n/a] not for publication

city or town Butler [n/a] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Bates code 13 zip code 64730-2026

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [x] 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 [x] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [ ] nationally [ ] statewide [x] locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments [ ].)

Signature of certifying official/Title Claire F. Blackwell/Deputy SHPO Date 11 May 2001

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [ ].)

Signature of certifying official/Title

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is: Signature of the Keeper Date

[ ] entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet [ ].
[ ] determined eligible for the National Register
See continuation sheet [ ].
[ ] determined not eligible for the National Register.
[ ] removed from the National Register
[ ] other, explain see continuation sheet [ ].

5.Classification

Ownership of Property

[ ] private
[X] public-local
[ ] public-state
[ ] public-Federal

Category of Property

[X] building(s)
[ ] district
[ ] site
[ ] structure
[ ] object

Number of Resources within Property

contributing	noncontributing	
1	0	building
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
1	2	objects
2	2	total

Name of related multiple property listing.

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT: county courthouse

Current Functions

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT: county courthouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Richardsonian Romanesque

see continuation sheet [ ].

Materials

foundation stone

walls stone

roof asphalt

other

see continuation sheet [ ].

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet [x]

8.Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

[X] **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.

[X] **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.

Criteria Considerations

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
ARCHITECTURE

Periods of Significance
1902-1951

Significant Dates
1902

Significant Person(s)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
McDonald, George E./Bartlett and Kling

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

#_____

Primary location of additional data:

[x] State Historic Preservation Office

[ ] Other State Agency

[ ] Federal Agency

[ ] Local Government

[ ] University

[ ] Other:

Name of repository:_____

10.Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.3 acres

UTM References

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	381430	4235070			
C. Zone	Easting	Northing	D. Zone	Easting	Northing

[ ] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title see continuation page

organization _____ date _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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

name Bates County Commission

street & number 1 North Delaware telephone 660-679-3371

city or town Butler state MO zip code 64730-2026

Summary: The Bates County Courthouse, 1 North Delaware Street, is located on the courthouse square in downtown Butler, Missouri. It was designed by George E. McDonald of Lincoln, Nebraska, and was completed in 1902. The 2 ½-story, plus raised basement, Richardsonian Romanesque-style building is constructed of natural faced Carthage limestone. It features a central tower and four corner pavilions, all with ogee-shaped roofs. Both the north and south façades feature central pavilions with low pediments and elaborate recessed entrances. The east and west facades have stepped gables with less elaborate entrances to the first floor and into the raised basement. A clock is in each side of the tower. The plan is rectangular with slightly projecting corners and central salients. The building's exterior generally retains integrity although the tower was simplified below its ogee roof and sided with gold-colored material in 1974. For energy efficiency, the original wood sash windows have been replaced with metal frame windows in their original openings, and entrances have been similarly treated. The square, a Shelbyville type, contains one contributing and two noncontributing objects. The contributing object, a Doughboy statue erected in 1927 in memory of the county's World War I veterans, is on the northwest corner of the courthouse lawn. On the east side of the square, a marker honoring the county's veterans and a gazebo are nonhistoric and are counted as noncontributing, but they are typical objects found on courthouse squares throughout Missouri. Uncounted are a small memorial rose garden near the north entrance, two flagpoles and several public benches.

Elaboration: Bates County is bordered by Cass County on the north, Henry County on the east, Vernon County on the south and the State of Kansas on the west. Butler is located near the county's geographic center and the courthouse square, a Shelbyville type, is bounded by Ohio Street on the north, Dakota Street on the south, Main Street on the east and Delaware Street on the west. The Shelbyville square is the most common type in Missouri, a design which allocates one block of a grid for the courthouse and lots on the surrounding blocks are rearranged to face it. Part of the southwestern quadrant of Butler's square is paved for parking. Concrete sidewalks lead from the curbs of the bordering brick streets and a sidewalk wraps around the base of the building. Corners of the square are slightly rounded or truncated. A small utility area enclosed with a wooden fence is adjacent to the building on the southwest corner. The marker honoring Bates County's veterans was erected on November 11, 1987. The Doughboy was erected on May 30, 1927.

The building measures 84 feet by 104 feet. It follows a plan fairly common in Missouri courthouses, a "squarish shape with design elements carried about all facades [that] was well conceived for the central courthouse square." The primary tower and four separately roofed corner pavilions emphasize the squareness of the building.[1] Its horizontality is enhanced by encircling courses of stone between the first and second stories. This decorative element consists of one course of protruding stone over two courses of square stones in a checkerboard pattern of alternating smooth and rough surfaces.

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[1]Marian Ohman, *A History of Missouri's Counties, County Seats, and Courthouse Squares* (Columbia: University of Missouri, 1983):72.

A central tower was a common feature of Missouri courthouses.[2] Originally, each side of the tower on the Bates County Courthouse had a pair of one-over-one windows accented with short metal columns and the upper portion featured decorative stone turrets. The turrets have been removed and the tower was partially boxed in with wood framing and siding in 1974. Visible windows in the tower are short single units rather than tall pairs as originally, although the old windows are still present. In the ogee-shaped roof above each window is a clock, as originally. A replica of the Statue of Liberty which originally stood on a platform atop the octagonal roof was removed many years ago (figure 4). Restoration of the tower to an approximation of its 1902 appearance is a goal of the Bates County Commission. Bids are being solicited for removal of the siding, repair of the tower windows and repairs/replacement of the stonework.

The four corner towers or pavilions have octagonal ogee-shaped roofs and upper corners accented with stone bartizans. Except for the removal of finials, these towers essentially reflect their historic appearance. Tympanums above short attic level windows contain floral designs in bas relief. Finials with squat bases emerge from the segmentally arched roofline (figure 1). Second story windows in the pavilions contain one-over-one sash accented by radiating stone voussoirs. Slightly projecting stone sills are one course above the decorative banding that encircles the building. On the first floor, flat-topped voussoirs accent round arch windows with one-over-one sash. Ground floor windows are one-over-ones with flat stone arches (figure 2).

On the north elevation, a three-bay central pavilion accentuates the entrance (photo 1). The pavilion is topped with a low pediment containing three small attic windows. Metal statues of Lady Justice originally stood atop the ridge here and on the south elevation. At the second floor level of the central pavilion are three round arch windows. The larger middle opening contains coupled one-over-one windows topped by a pair of windows within the arch which are divided by a broad muntin. The flanking windows consist of single one-over-one sash. The voussoirs outlining the arches meet at the haunch. The north entrance is recessed in the central pavilion. The round-arched doorway is flanked by round arch windows, one on each side as at the second floor level. Stone archivolts outline the voussoirs. The arches meet at imposts supported by six short, smooth columns resting on piers that extend to ground level. Between the piers is a porch with floor tiles in shades of yellow ochre, terra cotta and burnt umber. Five steps lead up from the sidewalk. On the ground floor, coupled one-over-one windows are below the side windows and on either side of the doorway (figure 3).

Between the central pavilion and each corner pavilion is a recessed two-bay section of wall. This area does not have attic windows. Its openings are of simpler construction than those on the central and corner pavilions. First floor windows have round arches with voussoirs that meet at the haunch. Second story and ground floor window openings have flat arches and contain one-over-one sash.

[2]Ohman, passim.

On the south elevation of the Bates County Courthouse, corner and central pavilion details are similar to those of the north façade. However, in a slight departure, wall sections between the corner pavilions and the central pavilion contain entrances to ground floor offices (photo 2).

The east and west elevations are less elaborate than those on the north and south. On each of these secondary elevations, the central pavilion features a stepped gable with alternate courses of smooth and rock-faced stone. Capstones top each step and the gable peaks are accented with finials.

On the east elevation, the central pavilion gable contains two small one-over-one attic windows. The second story has two one-over-one windows with round arches. The first story has two recessed double-leaf entrances with round arches. The entrances are transomed. A stone stairway with stone sidewalls leads from the sidewalk. The recessed section of wall north of the central pavilion is one bay instead of two as on the north and south. A single one-over-one window with a flat arch is at the second floor level. A one-over-one first story window has a round arch. A one-over-one ground floor window has a flat arch. The section of wall south of the central pavilion features paired one-over-one windows with flat arches at all levels. Stone chimneys with bartizans emerge from the inside corners of both corner pavilions (photo 3).

On the west façade, the central pavilion has two small one-over-one attic windows in the gable similar to those on the east. Chimneys rise from the outer corners of the central pavilion as well as from the inner walls of the corner pavilions. On the second story, a round arched opening filled with stonework contains two small windows separated by a short, square column with a corbelled capital. On the first story, a single round arch accents a recessed entrance with a tile floor. The section of wall north of the central pavilion contains a flat arched window at the second story, a round arched window on the main floor, and a flat arched window on the ground floor. The wall section south of the central pavilion has a double window with a flat arch upstairs and, on the main floor, a single window with a round arch. The ground floor has a single window with a flat arch. All of the windows are one-over-ones (photo 4).

The interiors of each entrance are different. The exterior doors have been replaced, but the casings and oak trim have been retained. At the north entrance to the building, double doors open off a recessed porch to a 36-inch deep landing. From the landing, ten steps rise to a landing 30 inches deep. This landing is separated from the central hallway by a doorway with 31-inch wide paneled walls on each side of a pair of 32-inch doors. The doors and paneling are oak and retain their original decorative hinges(photo 14). At the east entrance, the exterior double doors are flush rather than recessed. These doors open onto a tiled landing with two sets of stairs. On the north side of the landing, ten steps ascend to the central hallway. On the south side, a narrower staircase of seven steps descends to the ground floor. The stairway is made of oak and retains its decorative balustrades.

The south entrance is recessed and opens onto a 36-inch deep landing. Ten steps rise from this landing to the central hallway and seven steps lead to the ground floor. At the top of the stairs is a 30-inch landing, which is separated by paneled walls and double doors. The west entrance is also recessed. Exterior stairs rise to a double door that opens onto a 32-inch deep landing. From this landing seven steps lead to a 24-inch deep landing separated from the central hallway by a set of double doors and oak paneling.

As the exterior building suggests, the interior plan is a cruciform, central hall design on each floor with offices opening off the central hallways (figure 5). Originally, the ground floor contained a boiler room and fuel room, a storage room, an assembly room, and public rooms described by the architect as designed "for ladies with their children," and public restrooms.[3] The first floor housed county offices and the second floor contained courtrooms. Today, the first floor houses offices of the county clerk, treasurer, recorder, assessor and surveyor. On the second floor is a circuit courtroom, an associate and probate courtroom, a prosecutor's office and a sheriff's office. The ground floor houses a license bureau, a University of Missouri extension office, a juvenile office and restrooms.

The floor of the central hallway is tiled in shades of yellow ochre, terra cotta, and burnt umber. The floor is bordered by a pattern of tiles, and the center of the hallway features a large square tile medallion. The field tile is six-inch, yellow ochre, cropped squares with two and one-quarter inch burnt umber dots (figure 6).

The central hall is dominated by an oak stairway with an intricate balustrade and an ornate newel post, leading to the second floor. This flight is 64 inches wide. The first three steps circle outward approximately 30 inches, making the base of the stairway 94 inches wide. The paneled newel post, topped with a pyramid carved with acanthus leaf decorations, supports a large bronze lamp. The balustrade features a zigzag pattern with rectangles. The first 14 steps lead to a landing. Two more steps lead from the first landing to a second landing. Ten more steps lead to the second story. The underside of the stairway is paneled in oak (photos 7, 8, 9).

Although the original wooden windows have been replaced with more energy-efficient metal sash, the oak window trim has been retained on the interior. The trim consists of reeded lintels and jambs accented with bull's-eye medallions at the corners. The wood doors and trim are also oak. Interior doors have tall vertical divided transoms, 20-inch deep paneled door casings, and reeded jambs and lintels with bull's-eye medallions at the corners(photo 10). Reeded oak chair rails separate the lower walls which are painted dove gray from the top portions which are painted pearl gray.

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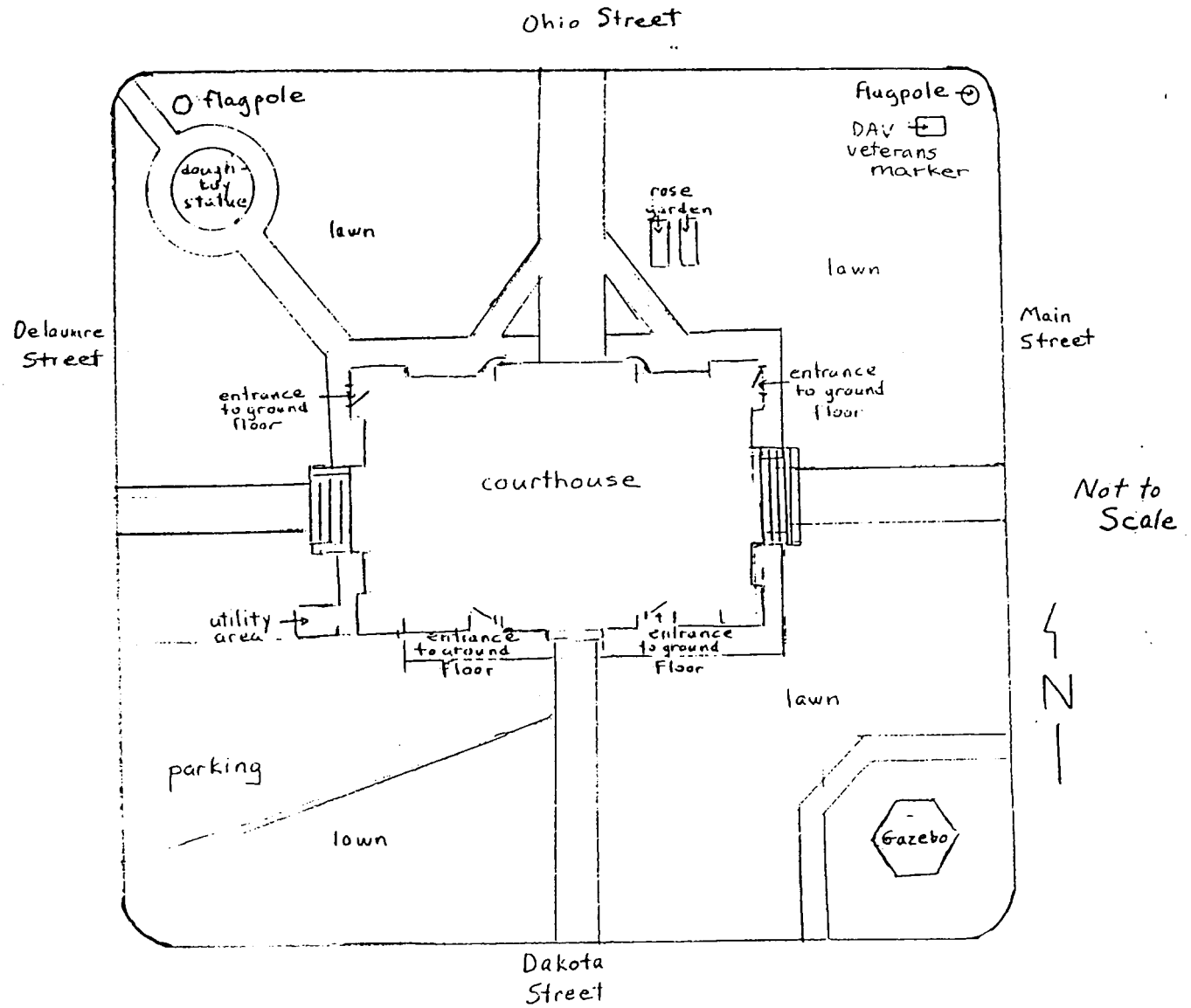
[3]*Bates County Record*, 16 February 1901.

Site Plan
Bates County Courthouse
Butler, Bates County, Missouri



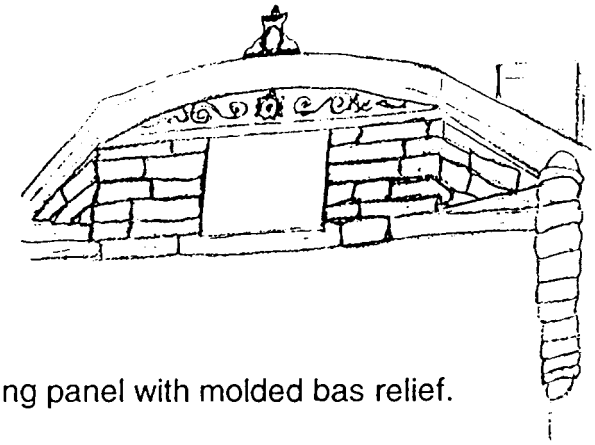


Figure 1.

Detail of corner pavilion showing panel with molded bas relief.

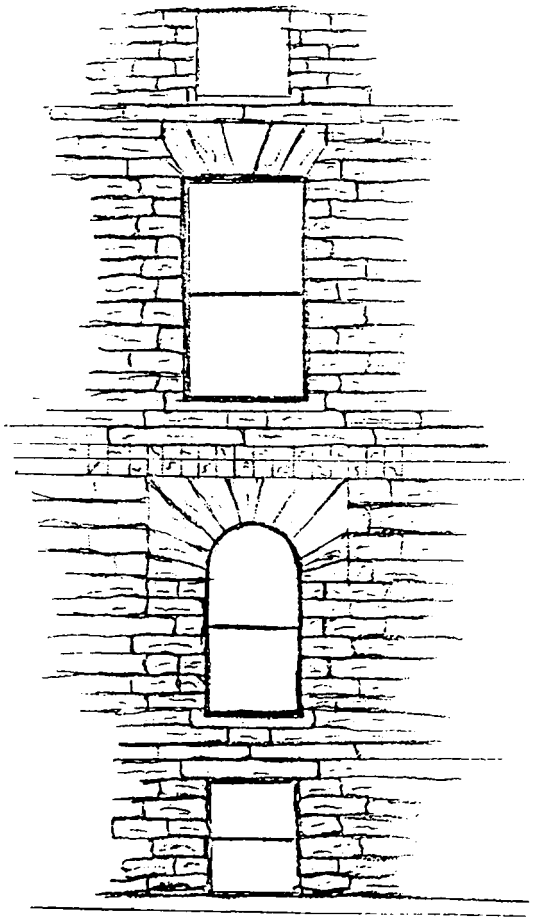


Figure 2.

Corner pavilion windows.

Figure 3. North entrance.

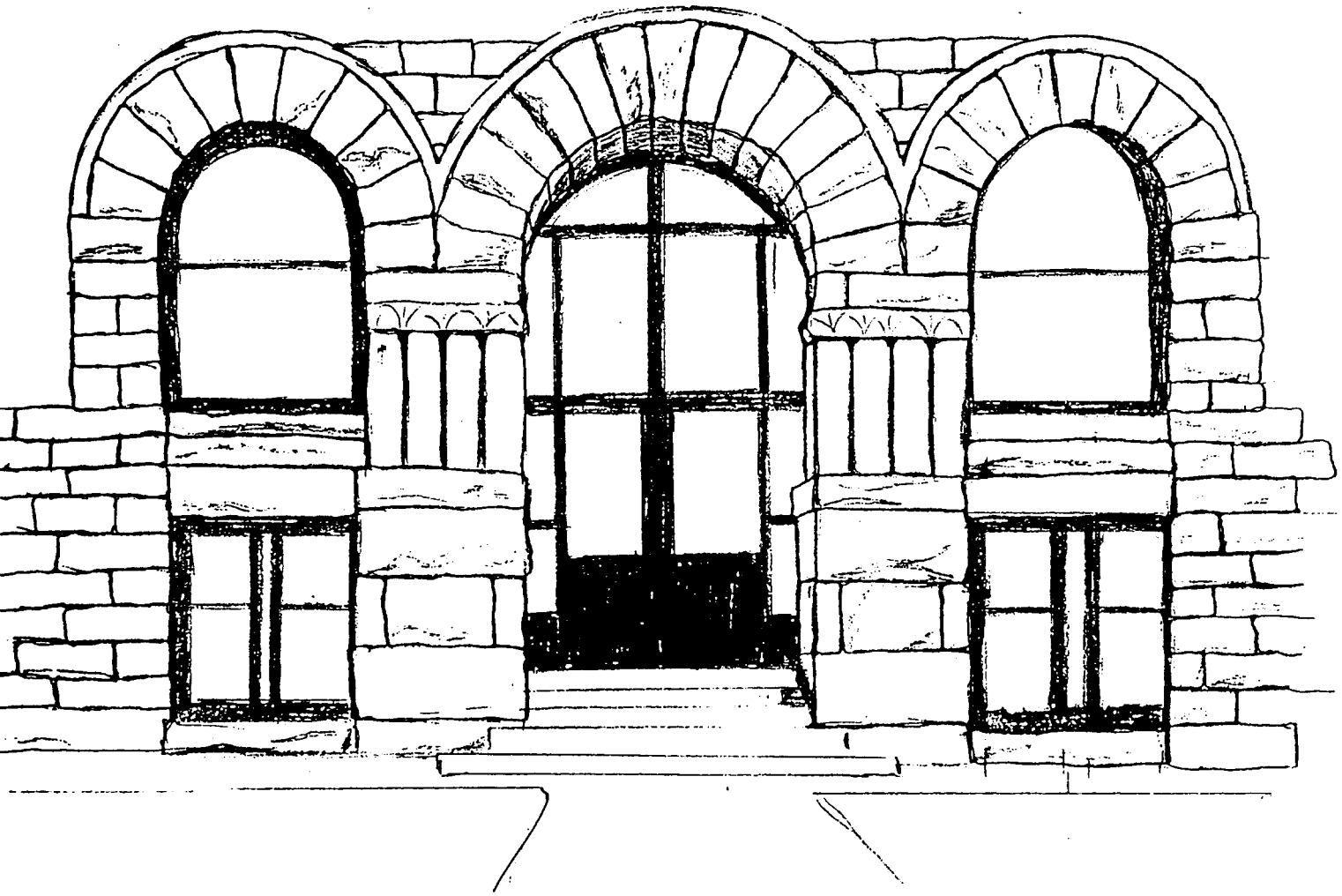
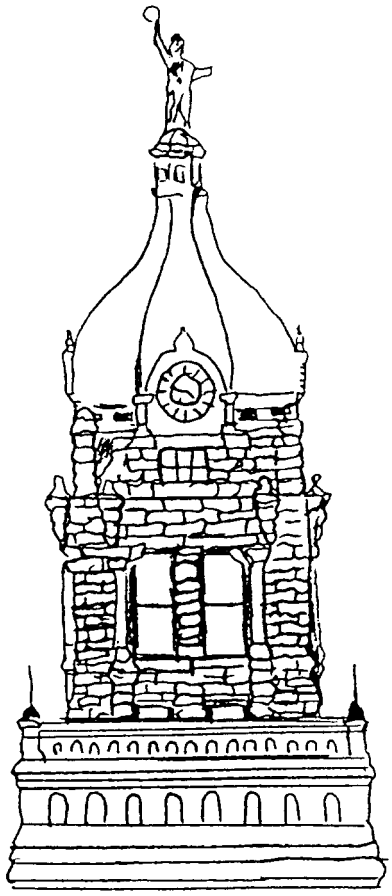


Figure 4. Original tower detail.

(From architects' drawing)



Pre-1974 photo.

Figure 5. First floor plan showing current use of space.

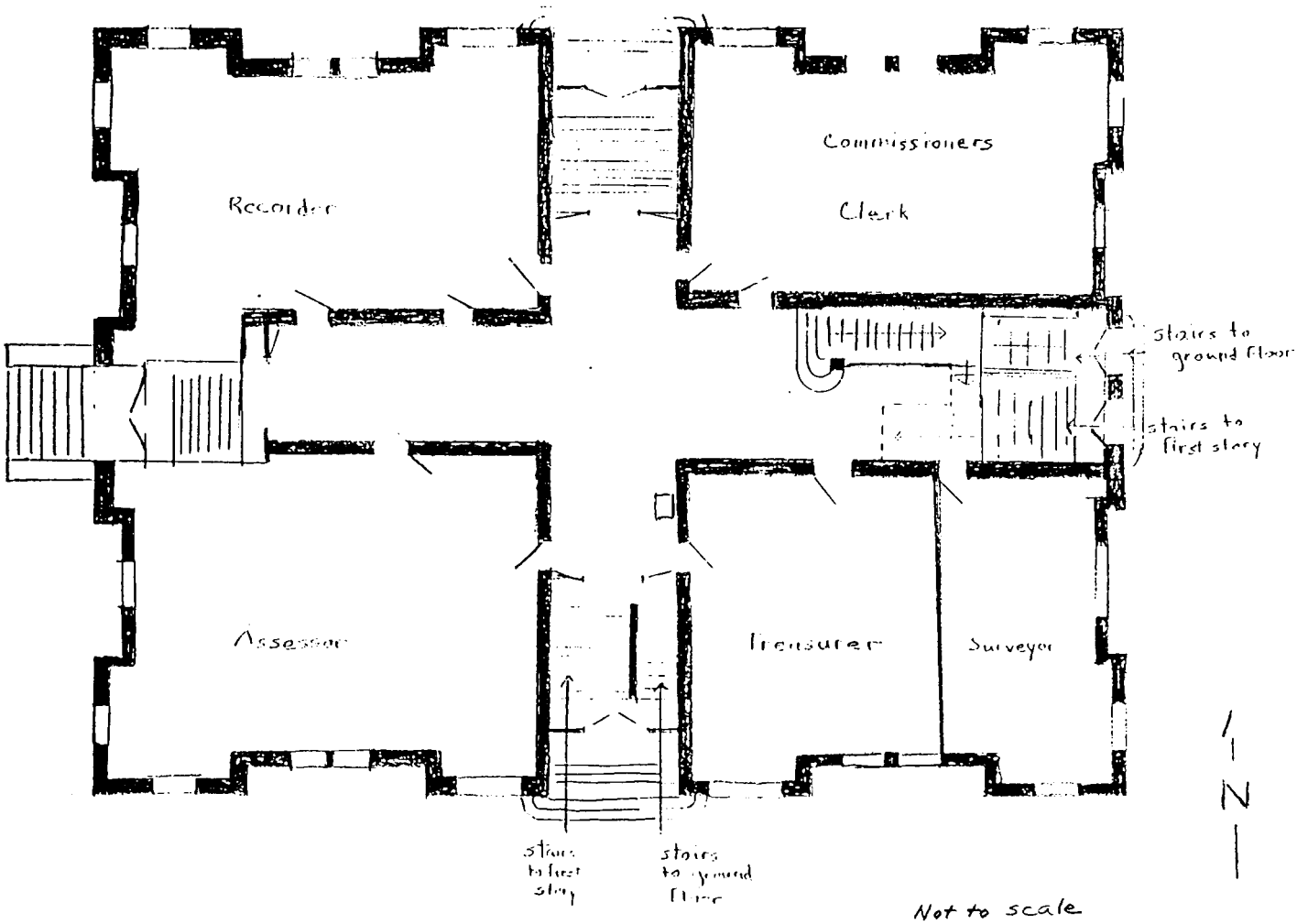
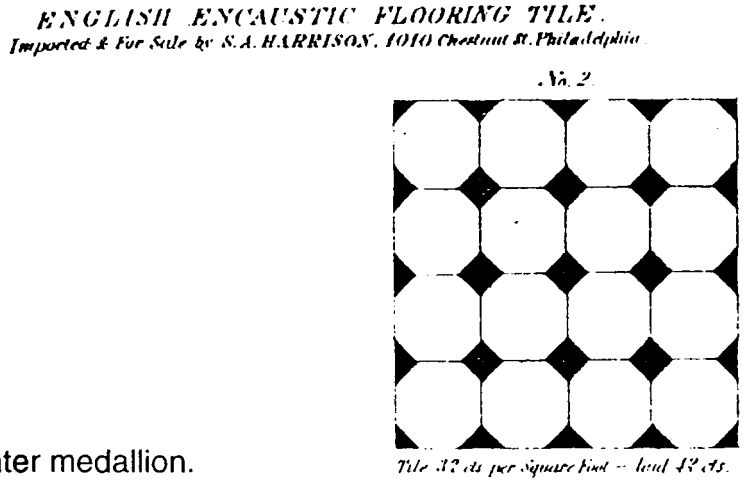


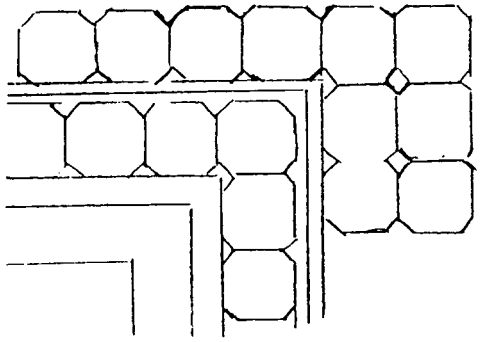
Figure 6. Detail of first floor tiles.

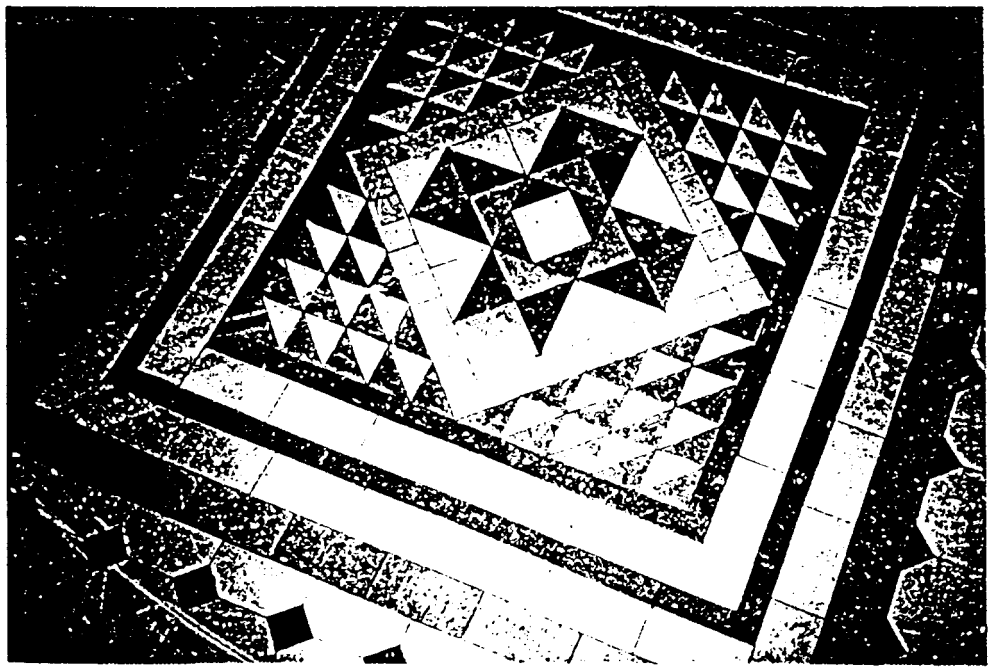
Advertisement showing similar field tile, c. 1861.
Source: Von Rostensteil and Winkler,
Floor Coverings for Historic Buildings.



Center medallion.

Border pattern.





Summary: The Bates County Courthouse, 1 North Delaware Street, Butler, Missouri, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. It is significant in the area of POLITICS/GOVERNMENT as the seat of law and government in Bates County since its completion in 1902. It is also significant in the area of ARCHITECTURE as an impressive example of the Richardsonian Romanesque style that dominated Missouri courthouse construction in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It is the last of four Missouri courthouses to be constructed from a design popularized by architect George E. McDonald. The courthouse, Bates County's fourth and the third to be constructed in Butler, was built after a year-long controversy over a proposed relocation of the county seat from Butler to the rival community of Rich Hill. Significance is local and covers the period from 1902 through 1951, reflecting the period from its construction through the arbitrary 50-year cut-off date for National Register listing.

Background: After Missouri became a state in 1821, county lines were drawn and redrawn. County seats changed accordingly. The western area of Missouri between the Missouri and the Osage (Maraies des Cygnes) Rivers was named Lilliard County. Baptist missionaries from New York established Harmony Mission, the first community in what became Bates County, to serve as a school for Native American children in the area. In 1833, Lilliard County was divided into Jackson County and Van Buren County, with Harmony Mission selected as the first county seat. In 1841, Cass County separated from Van Buren County and the southern part of Van Buren was named Bates County in honor of Missouri's second governor Frederick Bates. In 1847, Papinsville (originally Papinville) became the county seat of Bates County, in part because its location on the Osage River made it accessible to river travel. In 1853, Papinsville began building a "substantial brick courthouse" which was finished in 1855.[4]

However, county lines were again redrawn in 1855 (over the objections of Papinsville) and the southern part of what had been Bates County became Vernon County. This change left Papinsville with a newly completed courthouse at the southern edge of Bates County. While the Papinsville courthouse was under construction, Butler citizens campaigned to have their more centrally located town declared county seat. Butler was a logical choice and after three citizens donated 55 acres for the project, the Legislature agreed to move the county seat to Butler. A plat marking a central courthouse square was filed. The court hired Fritzpatrick (AKA Fitzpatrick) and Hurt of Benton County to build a 50 x 50-foot brick courthouse to serve Bates County. The recently constructed but unneeded courthouse at Papinsville was converted to commercial use.[5]

Bates County's location near Missouri's border with Kansas played a significant role in the history of its courthouses. During the Civil War era, guerilla warfare took a heavy toll in Bates County and other parts of Missouri south of Jackson County. In 1861, both the original Bates County Courthouse

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[4] *The Old Settlers History of Bates County, Missouri* (Amsterdam, MO: Fathwell and Marey, 1897):25.

[5] Ibid., and Ohman, Encyclopedia of Missouri Courthouses (Columbia: University of Missouri Extension Division, 1981) unpaged.

at Papinville and the newer one at Butler where the county seat had been moved five years earlier were burned, along with many other buildings. Raiders from Kansas in the guise of Union cavalry, operating under the orders of Colonel James Montgomery, were said to be responsible for this particular reign of terror. By the time the war ended, most of Bates County's buildings had been torched by one band of raiders or another in an effort to drive Southern sympathizers from the area. In 1863, the disruption was intensified when Union General Thomas Ewing Jr. issued Order No. 11, requiring rural residents of Bates, Jackson, Cass and Vernon Counties to turn in their grain and hay and evacuate. Many were murdered on both sides of the border by marauders and those seeking vengeance.

County records were shuttled around the state during the Civil War, and ultimately many records were lost. In 1862, Robert Duncan moved the records from Butler to Oliver Lutsenhizer's home in Deepwater Township. Subsequently, the records were moved outside of Bates County to Clinton in Henry County. Then they were taken to Jefferson City where they remained until 1864 when newly-elected County Clerk John Myers moved them to Dresden in Pettis County. Courts were held in various locations during the Civil War. In 1864, the Johnston community served briefly as the county seat but lacked access to the county records. In the fall of 1864, Pleasant Gap was an interim county seat and Myers took the records there. But despite attempts by both Duncan and Myers to preserve the records, marriage records up to 1860 and court records from 1852 through 1859 were lost. Probably Bates Countians understood the importance of fireproof vaults about as well as anyone could, and they were a major consideration when the present courthouse was commissioned in 1901.[6]

After the Civil War, the people who returned to the devastation in Butler and other parts of Bates County began the task of rebuilding. Butler remained the county seat and in November 1865, the court authorized F. M. Steele to construct a 16 x 20-foot building on the northeast corner of the square to serve as a sheriff's and court's office, and a 16 x 16-foot building on the southeast corner for county records and a clerk's office, but no true courthouse existed.

An impressive courthouse was built in 1869 from architect P. B. Leach's design for a Second Empire-style building with a cupola. Ohman notes that this courthouse was probably the state's first of six with a mansard roof but, commented Ohman, the impact was ruined by the addition of the cupola.[7] J. B. Linkenpaugh built this courthouse for $23,000, an amount which many citizens considered excessive and which had to be defended in the dedication speech which praised the progressiveness of hiring an architect to design a building to represent the county.[8] Both the design and construction were faulty, however, and after three decades the building was on its proverbial last legs.

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[6]W. O. Atkeson, *History of Bates County* (Topeka: Historical Publishing, 1918): 237.

[7]Ohman, A History of Missouri's Counties, 72.

[8]Ibid., 46.

By early 1899, the *Bates County Record* was referring to the building as "an old relic of archaeology" held together only by the "stimulating breath of the democratic politicians."[9] In December 1899, at the request of the county court, architect Frederick Hill examined the building and declared it unsafe. Hill reported that the wood trusses over the courtroom were inadequate for the weight of the upper stories. The weight of the cupola and upper stories bore upon the brick walls, unsupported by pilasters or buttresses, causing them to crack and bulge. The soft bricks were "rotten" and the mortar was crumbling. The building was a "veritable fire trap," and the vaults for the records could not withstand either fire or collapse.[10]

The building's significance in the area of POLITICS/GOVERNMENT is suggested by some of the factors surrounding its construction. The necessity of choosing an architect to design an impressive building to house law and local government activities had by this time been accepted by the people of Bates County. That the approval of a tax levy to finance construction of a new courthouse took over a year, however, reflects several characteristics common to Missouri during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. One was a reluctance to vote for an increase in taxes to pay for public buildings and services, though at the same time citizens demanded that services be provided. According to Lawrence Christensen and Gary Kremer, "At virtually every level of life, Missourians had expressed a desire to see their taxes assessed at the lowest possible level."[11] Another characteristic was a newly difficult process of changing the location of the county seat.[12] A third was the involvement of the press in attempting to influence public opinion.

Both the *Bates County Record* and the *Bates County Democrat* called for replacement of the condemned building. In January 1900, the county court moved into rooms rented in the local Opera House for $600 per year. On February 3, 1900, the court met with representatives of each township, a group described by the press as "a body of men in intelligence as well as means...the bone and sinew of our county." They agreed that a new courthouse was necessary, and that $50,000 to $60,000 would be required to build one. Meanwhile the citizens of Rich Hill, a community in southern Bates County, offered to build a courthouse if the county would make Rich Hill the seat of government.[13] A war of words between Butler and Rich Hill ensued, each city claiming that it had better and more progressive amenities befitting a county seat.[14] Both the *Bates County Democrat* and the *Bates County Record* voiced concern for the safety of the county records, perhaps hoping to

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[9]*Bates County Record*, 9 April 1899.

[10]*Bates County Record*, 30 December 1899.

[11]Lawrence O. Christensen and Gary Kremer, *A History of Missouri, 1875-1919* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1997): 109.

[12]Ohman, *A History of Missouri's Counties*, 23.

[13]*Bates County Record*, 3 February 1900.

[14]*Bates County Record*, 30 March 1900.

influence older readers who were likely to remember the problems created by the loss of records during the Civil War.[15]

The matter was put before the public. The citizens could decide whether to accept Rich Hill's proposal and move the county seat or let it stay in Butler. The citizens were also charged with deciding whether to tax themselves for the construction of a new courthouse. The county would appropriate $10,000, the maximum allowed by state law, and a tax of thirteen cents per $100 valuation would be levied for three years in order to raise the remaining $40,000 required. At the election on March 20, 1900, the two-thirds majority required for moving the seat was not achieved; the county seat would remain in Butler. The two-thirds majority needed to approve the building of the new courthouse was not present either, so the court continued meeting in the Opera House that it temporarily called home.[16]

For most of the next year, both local newspapers urged construction of a new courthouse. Readers were told that the county's reputation for "progressive, modern-thinking" was in jeopardy.[17] The *Record* suggested that the citizens of Bates County were reluctant to approve any increase in taxes, even though the courthouse levy was relatively small. The county faced several demands on its budget that year, including repairs at the poor farm and improvement of roads and schools. The *Record* reprinted an article from the *Rich Hill Enterprise* that snidely remarked that some voted against the courthouse levy just to be "'agin it'...because they were not engineering it [and they] want something to scotch or bawk at."[18] The Butler press reprinted editorials from several other newspapers in the county encouraging passage of a levy.

On February 23, 1901, a slightly higher levy of fifteen cents per $100 valuation was placed before the voters. The judges were so certain the measure would pass that they engaged George E. McDonald of Lincoln, Nebraska, to prepare drawings and specifications for the new courthouse. By this time McDonald already had completed three courthouses and other buildings in western Missouri. Both Butler newspapers printed the drawings and specifications (figure 7). The specifications included "ten large vaults, absolutely fireproof," in response to concerns for the safety of county records.[19] This time the levy passed, despite large numbers of negative votes from Rich Hill.[20]

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[15]*Bates County Record*, 10 March 1900; *Bates County Democrat*, 8 March 1900.

[16]*Bates County Democrat*, 22 March 1900; *Bates County Record*, 24 March 1900.

[17]*Bates County Record*, 10 February 1900; *Bates County Democrat* 21 February 1901.

[18]*Bates County Record*, 16 February 1901.

[19]*Bates County Record*, 16 February 1901.

[20]*Bates County Record*, 1 March 1901.

The county court awarded the construction contract to Bartlett and Kling of Galesburg, Illinois, and work began in the summer of 1901. The cornerstone was laid on October 2, 1901, in a typically elaborate ceremony that included singing, prayers, and a Masonic ritual conducted by the Grand Masters of the A.F. and A.M. Lodge. All the lodges in the county sent delegates to the ceremony, and 80 members of Butler's own Masonic fraternity attended.[21] The building was completed in July 1902.[22]

The building's significance in POLITICS/GOVERNMENT is most clearly defined by its role as a center of local government. Offices of the county assessor and county treasurer are currently located in the courthouse. Each year the township collectors must present the treasurer with a "settlement record" of taxes collected. The county recorder also maintains an office in the courthouse and keeps records of property ownership, property transfers, cattle brands, and marriages. The Bates County Commission (originally the Bates County Court, a judicial body) conducts its county business at the courthouse. The commission's current duties include setting the annual budget, calling elections and establishing polling places, and overseeing the county road and bridge department, county facilities, and county government in general. Over the years, the courthouse has provided temporary quarters for various other public entities including the Butler Public Library which, in 1926, was located in the basement.

Earlier, as a judicial body, the court's duties included issuing naturalization certificates to persons newly admitted to citizenship. Between 1904 and 1927, 52 people, the majority of them from Germany, Belgium, and Austria, became citizens in Bates County.[23] Under state law, maintenance of residents at state facilities such as asylums for the insane, the blind, the deaf, and reformatories for youthful offenders was the responsibility of the resident's county, and the judges had to approve each placement and the resulting expenditures. Typical county court records from early in the period of significance include insanity testimony by physicians, recommendations for placements in state asylums and approvals of the placements.[24] The judges also approved the placement of paupers at the county poor farm. The court funded the enforcement of statutes prohibiting "domestic animals [from] running at large," paid bounties on wolf (coyote) scalps, and licensed dramshops.

The building is significant in the area of ARCHITECTURE because it is a good and representative example of architect George E. McDonald's Romanesque Revival courthouse design in Missouri, rendered in natural-faced limestone. McDonald's design was appropriate for its location on a courthouse square and Romanesque styling was well-suited for public buildings because its massive

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[21]*Bates County Record*, 12 October 1901.

[22]*Bates County Record*, 5 July 1902.

[23]Bates County Court Record, Naturalization Certificates, Missouri State Archives, C26952.

[24]Bates County Court Record, passim.

nature contributed to an all-important impression of stability. Ohman commented that the "squarish shape with design elements carried about all facades was well conceived for the central courthouse square." The central tower and four "separately roofed corner subdivisions called pavilions" presented an attractive appearance from any angle.[25] McDonald's four Missouri courthouse are generally similar rectangular buildings with central towers and corner pavilions.

The Richardsonian Romanesque style was Boston architect Henry Hobson Richardson's eclectic interpretation of Romanesque Revival architecture. Richardson borrowed elements from the Roman buildings which he observed in southern France.[26] Ohman suggests that Richardson's design for the Allegheny County Courthouse in Pennsylvania "inspired a prolific, although brief, era in courthouse architecture across America."[27] Kostof comments that "hundreds of Richardsonian public buildings [appear] in every corner of late nineteenth century American."[28] In Missouri, Richardson's influence was "indirect."[29] His style, as Kostof notes, was easy to imitate.[30] However, Ohman suggests that the Romanesque courthouses in Missouri only "weakly imitate Richardson's genius."[31] Richardson died in 1886, but his interpretation of Romanesque architecture continued to be copied until the early 20th century. Between 1889 and 1906, 17 Missouri counties built Romanesque styled-courthouses and McDonald designed four of them. All four McDonald courthouses, constructed in Andrew, Lawrence, Johnson and Bates Counties, were essentially the same although three different building materials were used. The Andrew, Lawrence, and Johnson County Courthouses were listed in the National Register of Historic Places on September 11, 1980, September 23, 1980, and April 7, 1994, respectively.

Richardsonian Romanesque architecture, according to Rifkind, is characterized by "heavy horizontality," often set off by an "emphatically upright" tower.[32] Stone, the "substantial, volume-embracing generous masonry" was the favored material of the Romanesque architects which also projected an appropriate impression of permance in public buildings. Other typical details included round arched windows with voussoirs radiating out from the central stone; short, sometimes foliated columns; transomed windows; hipped roofs with cross gables; and "cavernous entrance arches springing from squat stubs of columns or piers."[33] McDonald's design effectively used the corner

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[25]Ohman, *A History of Missouri's Counties*, 77.

[26]Talbot Faulkner Hamlin, *The American Spirit in Architecture* (New Haven: Yale, 1926):173.

[27]Ohman, *A History of Missouri's Counties*, 72.

[28]Spiro Kostof, *A History of Architecture* (New York: Oxford, 1985): 655.

[29]Ohman, *A History of Missouri's Counties*, 72.

[30]Kostof, 660.

[31]Ohman, *A History of Missouri's Counties*, 72-77.

[32]Carole Rifkind, *A Field Guide to American Architecture* (New York: Bonanza, 1980): 148.

pavilions and central tower to emphasize the squarish mass of the building while decorative courses of encircling stone emphasize its horizontality.

In their original form, many turn-of-the-century courthouses displayed symbolic statuary and the Bates County Courthouse was no exception. McDonald's design provided for a metal replica of the Statue of Liberty which stood atop the central tower, symbolizing freedom. Statues of Lady Justice, signifying the impartiality of law, adorned the central pediments on the north and south elevations of the building. Unfortunately, the statuary has been removed but another long-established feature on courthouse towers—clocks which announce the time simultaneously in four directions—is intact. Bishop and Coblentz note that tower clocks were important from an early period in American history, remained popular in Victorian America and "became a necessary adjunct to depots serving the new steamboat and railroad lines."[34]

McDonald was among the many architects who paid tribute to Richardson by imitating his eclectic use of broad arches, squat column clusters, rough-faced stone masonry and massed hip roofs. McDonald's entrance archwork on both the north and south facades of the building involves a series of three arches meeting at the haunches and resting on imposts, supported by six short columns resting on piers. The depth of the entryways creates shallow porches or vestibules. The entrance arches are set into central pavilions topped by pedimented gables. McDonald's hipped roof features stepped gables with capstones and finials on the east and west side elevations.

Inside, the form of the building translates into a cruciform system of hallways and offices with details typical of the late 19th century. Floor tiles—in yellow ocher, burnt umber, terra cotta and tan—were used as recommended by Andrew Jackson Downing and other writers for their durability. As early as 1850, Downing championed the use of tile as "far more durable [and] much more economical" than carpets or floorcloths for high traffic areas such as vestibules and entry halls. In 1861 Samuel Sloan illustrated a pattern similar to that used in the Bates County Courthouse. The use of tile remained popular in the 20th century.[35]

The interior with its original varnished oak woodwork is also typical of the period, adding to the courthouse's ambience. Winkler and Moss point out that by the 1890s, the reform philosophy "wholly condemned the fakery of grained woodwork...[and] recommended stained and varnished woodwork."[36] Paneled oak doors and casings, reeded window trim, and chair rails are among the preserved interior details that contribute to an appreciation of the building's rugged craftsmanship.

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[33]Kostof, 655-660.

[34]Robert Bishop and Patricia Coblentz, *The World of Antiques, Art, and Architecture in Victorian America* (New York: Dutton, 1979): 225.

[35]Helene Von Rosenstiel and Gail Caskey Winkler, *Floor Coverings for Historic Buildings* (Washington, D.C.: Preservation Press, 1988):118-119, 168. See also Gail Caskey Winkler and Roger W. Moss, *Victorian Interior Decoration* (New York: Holt, 1986): plate 23.

[36]Winkler and Moss, 194.

The elaborate stairway that continues from the east entrance to the attic clearly, as Calloway and Cromley state, "exploits the architectural and decorative value of stairs." Calloway and Cromley have noted that architects working in the Richardsonian style around the turn of the century "experimented with the length of flights and the number of landings."[37] While the paneled staircase in the Bates County Courthouse seems more typical than experimental, it is undeniably impressive. A tall, bronze, electric lamp is mounted on an ornate newel post. Stylized acanthus leaf carvings in the head of the post are continued in the shaft of the lamp. While gas or electric newel post lights were commonly used in public buildings and even homes, as Winkler and Moss point out, most have gone the way of courthouse statuary and are seldom seen today.[38]

Because of its central role in Bates County history, the Bates County Courthouse reflects events that have shaped the lives of its citizens. The rivalry between communities for the coveted county seat, the changing role of the county court in local government, and the use of a building's appearance as a way of emphasizing the importance of law and local government all come into play. In addition, the Bates County Courthouse is an impressive example of the Richardsonian Romanesque style that dominated Missouri courthouse architecture during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and more specifically it is a good and well-preserved local example of George E. McDonald's courthouse architecture in Missouri. Its central tower is temporarily sheathed and wood has been replaced with metal in the door and window openings but the courthouse is otherwise substantially intact including much of its historic interior.

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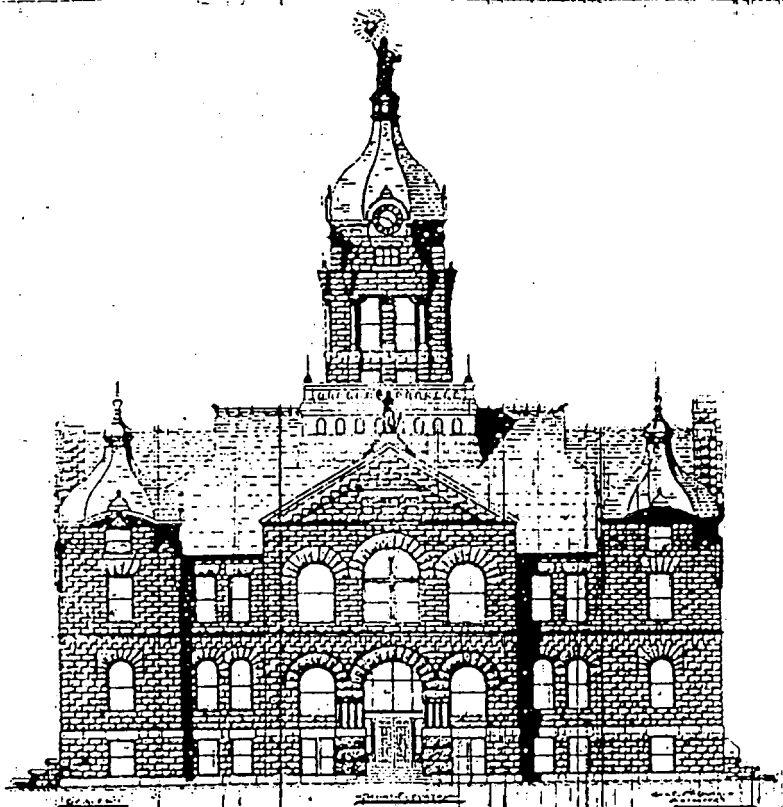
[37]Stephen Calloway and Elizabeth Cromley, *The Elements of Style* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1991):294, 296.

[38]Roger W. Moss, *Lighting for Historic Buildings* (New York: Wiley, 1988):101.

Figure 8.

Supplement of BATES CO. RECORD, Feb. 16th, 1901.



PROPOSED COURT HOUSE FOR BATES CO., MO.

The above cut shows the new county court house for Bates county, Mo., modern in every detail.

It is to be built in the centre of the court house square and have four fronts with four entrances, stool beams and channels instead of wood floor joists. The building is to be constructed of stone with heavy, substantial walls of solid masonry.

There are to be ten large vaults, absolutely fire-proof. The house is to be heated and all necessary closets and toilet rooms provided; public rooms are arranged in the basement story for the use of ladies with their children; also closets for the public. The building is to have slate roof, metal cornices, plate glass, tile and cement corridors and is to be finished complete ready to occupy within the amount of $50,000.00, Fifty Thousand Dollars.

This house has been completed in Johnson county, Mo., also in Andrew county, and has been contracted the third time in Lawrence county, Mo., within $50,000.00. The taxpayers of Bates county are therefore assured that the building will not exceed the sum of $50,000.00, and preference is to be given to home labor and material.

Following is the size of building and offices:

84 FEET WIDE BY 104 FEET LONG.

COUNTY CLERK.

Public office	26x30 feet.
Private office	15x15 feet.
Vault	11x14 feet.

RECORDER OF DEEDS.

Public office	19x34 feet.
Private office	15x22 feet.
Vault	14x15 feet.

PROBATE JUDGE.

Public office	19x34 feet.
Private office	15x22 feet.
Vault	14x14 feet.

COLLECTOR.

Office	19x30 feet.
Vault	10x11 feet.

TREASURER.

Office	16x20 feet.
Vault	10x11 feet.

CIRCUIT CLERK.

Office	19x30 feet.
Vault	10x22 feet.

COUNTY ATTORNEY.

Office	19x25 feet.
Private office	16x24 feet.

SHERIFF.

Office	14x22 feet.

And storage room.

GRAND JURY.

Room	16x24 feet.
Waiting room	10x14 feet.

LIBRARY.

12x16 feet.

CIRCUIT JUDGE.

19x22 feet.

PETIT JURY ROOMS.

Three petit jury rooms 16x18 feet, with closets.

CIRCUIT COURT ROOM.

48x48 feet.

LADIES WAITING ROOM.

11x16 feet.

ASSESSOR.

18x35 feet.

SURVEYOR.

Office	16x22 feet.
Vault	14x15 feet.

ASSEMBLY ROOM.

19x30 feet.

STORAGE ROOM.

16x20 feet.

BOILER ROOM.

20x31 feet.

FUEL ROOM.

18x33 feet.

PUBLIC CLOSETS.

Two public closets, 9x10 and 10x11 feet.

STORAGE VAULTS FOR OLD RECORDS.

Two vaults 14x14 feet each.

This building is to be built with heavy substantial stone walls, tile corridors, slate roof, metal cornice, and tower jackets and all valleys of copper. The cost is guaranteed not to exceed the sum of $50,000.00.

The foregoing description is given in detail to enable all voters to see what the building is to be.

G. E. McDONALD, Architect.

North façade as printed in *Bates County Record* and *Bates County Democrat.*

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property includes the entire Courthouse Square in Butler, Bates County, Missouri. Beginning at the property line at the southeast corner of the intersection of Delaware Street and Ohio Street, proceed east along the south curb line of Ohio Street to the intersection with Main Street; then proceed south along the west curb line of Main Street to the intersection with Dakota Street; then proceed west along the north curb line of Dakota Street to the intersection with Delaware Street; then proceed north along the east curb line of Main Street to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire block associated historically with the nominated property. A Doughboy statue is included as a contributing resource because of its date of installation. A marker, two flagpoles and gazebo are also included within the boundary but are not significant in size or associated with the historic significance of the nominated property and are, therefore, not included in the resource count. They are typical ancillary properties on an American courthouse square.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

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PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Bates County Courthouse
1 North Delaware
Butler, Bates County, Missouri
Rhonda Chalfant
December 2000
Negatives in possession of Rhonda Chalfant, 619 West 32nd St., Sedalia, Missouri 65301.

1. North façade, facing south.

2. South façade, facing north.

3. East façade, facing west.

4. West façade, facing northeast.

5. East and north facades, facing southwest.

#6. Doughboy statue, from west.

7. Stairway, from central hall facing east.

8. Stairway, from east exterior door, facing northwest.

9. Stairway, from central hall facing east.

#10. Door trim, clerk's office.

#11. Light fixtures, central hall.

#12. Center medallion, hallway.

#13. Newel post lamp.

#14. Hinge, east hallway door.

OFFICE

RESTROOM

BASEMENT
LICENSE BUREAU
EXTENSION OFFICE
JUVENILE OFFICE
V.A. REPRESENTATIVE
RESTROOMS
CUSTODIAN
1ST FLOOR
COUNTY CLERK & COMMISSIO
ASSESSOR
RECORDER OF DEEDS
TREASURER & EX-OFFICIO COLL
SURVEYOR

ASSESSOR

NO
PERSONAL
CHECKS
ACCEPTED
213
PROSECUTING
ATTORNEY

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY