

S.H.E FILE COPY

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
Old Johnson County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Johnson County Courthouse

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Old Public Square

CITY OR TOWN:
Warrensburg

STATE: Missouri 64093 CODE: 24 COUNTY: Johnson CODE: 101

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" 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) _____ Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Johnson County Historical Society, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:
c/o Dr. A. L. Stevenson, President
200 South College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Warrensburg STATE: Missouri 64093 CODE: 24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Johnson County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Warrensburg STATE: Missouri 64093 CODE: 24

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:
Corner, Hitt and Lowry streets

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia STATE: Missouri 65201 CODE: 24

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Missouri
COUNTY: Johnson
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DATE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Johnson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

6.

OLD JOHNSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Missouri State Historical Survey (state)

1969

Missouri State Park Board

P.O. Box 176

1204 Jefferson Building

Jefferson City, Missouri 65101 Code: 24

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Old Johnson County Courthouse in Warrensburg, Missouri, is a square plan, two story brick structure in the Federal style. The building was commissioned in 1838, completed in 1841, and is in the process of being restored to its early form, having been altered since the original construction.

EXTERIOR

The exterior brick walls have been covered with stucco which will be removed during the current restoration. The foundation is of locally quarried limestone. Doorways are centered at the first floor level of the north, east, and south walls. Each first floor door is flanked by one equidistant window to either side. Three evenly spaced windows repeat the same pattern on the second floor. The doorways are round arched, and the double doors have 20 raised center panels on both exterior and interior. The jambs and arch heads are also raised paneled. A fanlight window is between the doorhead and line of the arch itself in the one remaining original (north) door. This doorway arch also has an original wooden keystone cap on the interior and evidence of a brick keystone cap on the exterior. The south and east doors have not yet been restored to this original form. The first floor windows are double hung sash with 12 over 12 lights. The second floor windows are 3 over 8 lights. All of the windows have simple limestone sills and lintels.

The simple roof cornice is a restrained example in the classical tradition. The roof is hipped and framed to receive a cupola or bell tower which was never built. The present roofing material is wood shingle. Four rebuilt chimney stacks conforming to the original style, are located at each corner of the roof.

INTERIOR

First Floor

The first floor is one large open room, the west half of which is elevated 1 foot above the balance of the floor. This half contains the judge's bench with space for the clerk and witnesses. A column in the center of the room is 13' 4 1/2" high and supports the second floor wood framing. Fireplace openings are in the northeast and southeast corners of the room, which were closed at one time and stripped of their mantels. These fireplaces are being restored to their original appearance. The lower floor level is paved in 8" square brick, while the raised portion is of native burr oak. The judge's bench has been recreated using as evidence mortise holes in the original joists, and a similar original bench at Keytesville, Missouri, still in active use. A stairway in the southwest corner has also been reconstructed of handmade solid walnut with oak treads. Restoration was determined by lines in the original

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7.

OLD JOHNSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

plaster and an opening in the second floor which had been boarded over. This quarter-turn stairway with landing, gives access to the second floor.

Second Floor

The second floor ceiling is 10' 2½" high. This floor is divided into one large and two smaller rooms. The greater space served the clerk's office while the smaller rooms were used for grand and petty jury activities. Small fireplace openings at each of the corners of the walls of this floor have recently been reopened. (see photograph) The partition between the grand and petty jury rooms was at one time moved north to make the rooms of equal size, and has not yet been restored to its original position. (The floor plan shows the original and projected restored form.) All interior trim is of walnut. The framing and flooring are of tongue and groove native, burr oak.

ALTERATIONS

Early in 1867 the interior stair was removed and a new exterior stair was erected on the south exterior wall. To provide access to the second floor from the second floor stair landing, the second floor center window on this exterior wall was changed to a doorway with French doors, 10 lights in each frame, and surmounted by a four light transom. While the interior stair has been restored, this door remains. After the Civil War, the exterior brick walls were stuccoed.

Surviving original material is in good condition and walls and framing are sound. Restoration is in progress.

This summary description of the physical appearance of the building is based on data included in the field report by architectural consultant, Kenneth E. Coombs, A.I.A., June, 1969. The report was contracted by the Missouri State Park Board and is filed at its central office, P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101.

3. 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) planning and construction 1838-1841

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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<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 checked="" 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 Old Johnson County Courthouse, under design and construction 1838-1841, has primary significance as one of the few surviving second quarter, nineteenth century, Federal style courthouses in Missouri. This significance is greatly enhanced by the fact that a high proportion of the original material is extant and the building is being restored. The courthouse has further significance as the scene of the somewhat unusual trial of Burden vs. Hornsby which occurred in 1869-1870.

Numerous early county courthouses in Missouri, along with valuable county historical records, were destroyed by fire in the mid to late 1800's and were replaced by larger buildings of eclectic revival design. Such losses, although lamentable, enhance the value of the surviving examples.

The construction site for this building was chosen in 1836 by three commissioners, one of whom was Daniel Morgan Boone, son of Daniel Boone. Harvey Dyer, who was commissioned to supervise construction of the building, presented plans for the courthouse to the county court on November 17, 1838. The building specifications called for a structure of 44 by 36 feet, two stories, with foundation walls three feet thick and 18 inches above the ground, brick walls, four fireplaces, three entrance doorways, and glass windows. In January 1839 the judges ordered some alterations to the plans and cut the overall dimensions of the building to 36 by 36 feet. Additional changes were ordered the following July. The estimated cost of the building was \$2,500, but the actual cost has been determined at \$3,533.33. (Roy M. Stubbs, "Historical Sketch of Johnson County's Old Courthouse," 1967.)

The incident which resulted in the Burden vs. Hornsby trials of 1869-70 occurred when Charles Burden's favorite hound dog, Old Drum, was shot by a neighbor, Leonidas Hornsby, who accused the dog of sheep killing. Burden sued for damages, but each man was determined to win and the case was appealed several times. The

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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8.

OLD JOHNSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

case was tried before the Johnson County Court of Common Pleas at the Johnson County Courthouse in September, 1870. George Graham Vest, (later Senator from Missouri) spoke for Burden and delivered his classic speech called "A Tribute to a Dog." He said, "The one absolutely unselfish friend that a man can have in this selfish world, the one that never deserts him, the one that never proves ungrateful or treacherous, is his dog." His speech touched a common bond between all dog lovers and the jury awarded Burden \$25 for damages. (Walter L. Chaney, "The True Story of 'Old Drum,'" Missouri Historical Review, 19:319-324, January, 1925.)

In 1878, public use of the courthouse was terminated and plans were begun for a new one. The old building was sold at a sheriff's sale in 1878 to the German Evangelical Church. In later years, the building was remodeled and used as a private residence. In 1965, the Johnson County Historical Society acquired the building and is now in the process of restoring it to its original appearance. ("Historic Sites in Johnson County," The Bulletin of Johnson County Historical Society, April, 1968, p. 2, col. 1.)

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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COUNTY	
Johnson	
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9.

OLD JOHNSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

3. "Historic Sites in Johnson County," The Bulletin of Johnson County Historical Society, Vol. IV, No. 1, April, 1968.
4. Stubbs, Roy M. "Historical Sketch of Johnson County's Old Courthouse." Warrensburg, Mo.: Johnson County Historical Society, 1967. (Mimeographed.) Article based on the Minute Book(s) of the Johnson County Court, A-G, 1835-1871, and the Warrensburg Herald, 1865-1866.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Chaney, Walter L. "The True Story of 'Old Drum,'" Missouri Historical Review, 19:313-324, January, 1925.)
2. Coombs, Kenneth E., A.I.A. Architectural Consultant Field Report, received June, 1969, contracted by the Missouri State Park Board and filed at its central office, P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101.

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
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38°	45'	56"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		93°	45'	05"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than ten

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Charla A. Piggott, Research Historian

ORGANIZATION: Missouri State Park Board DATE: January 27, 1970
State Historical Survey and Planning Office

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

CITY OR TOWN: Jefferson City STATE: Missouri 65101 CODE: 24

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

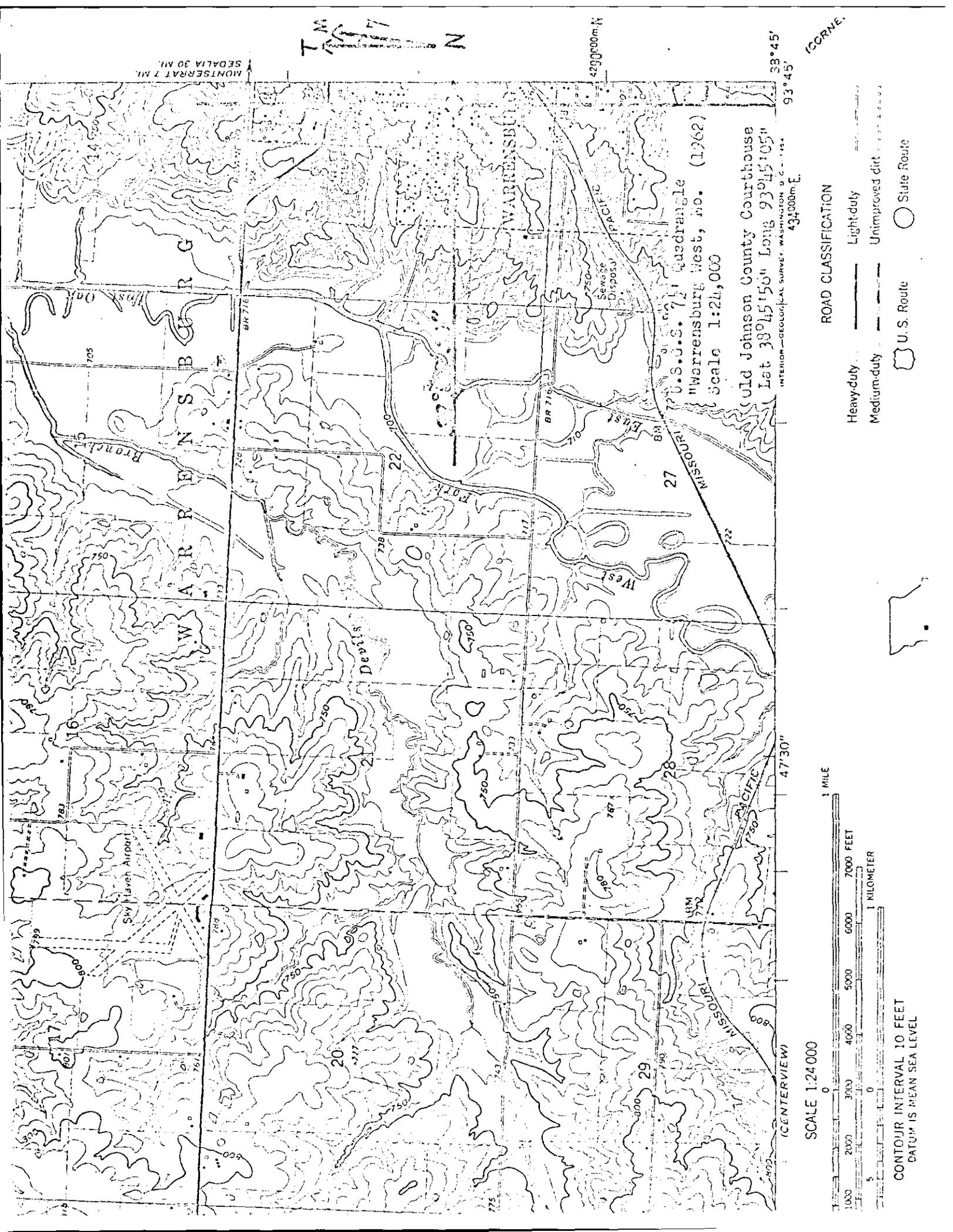
Date _____

ATTEST: _____

Keeper of The National Register

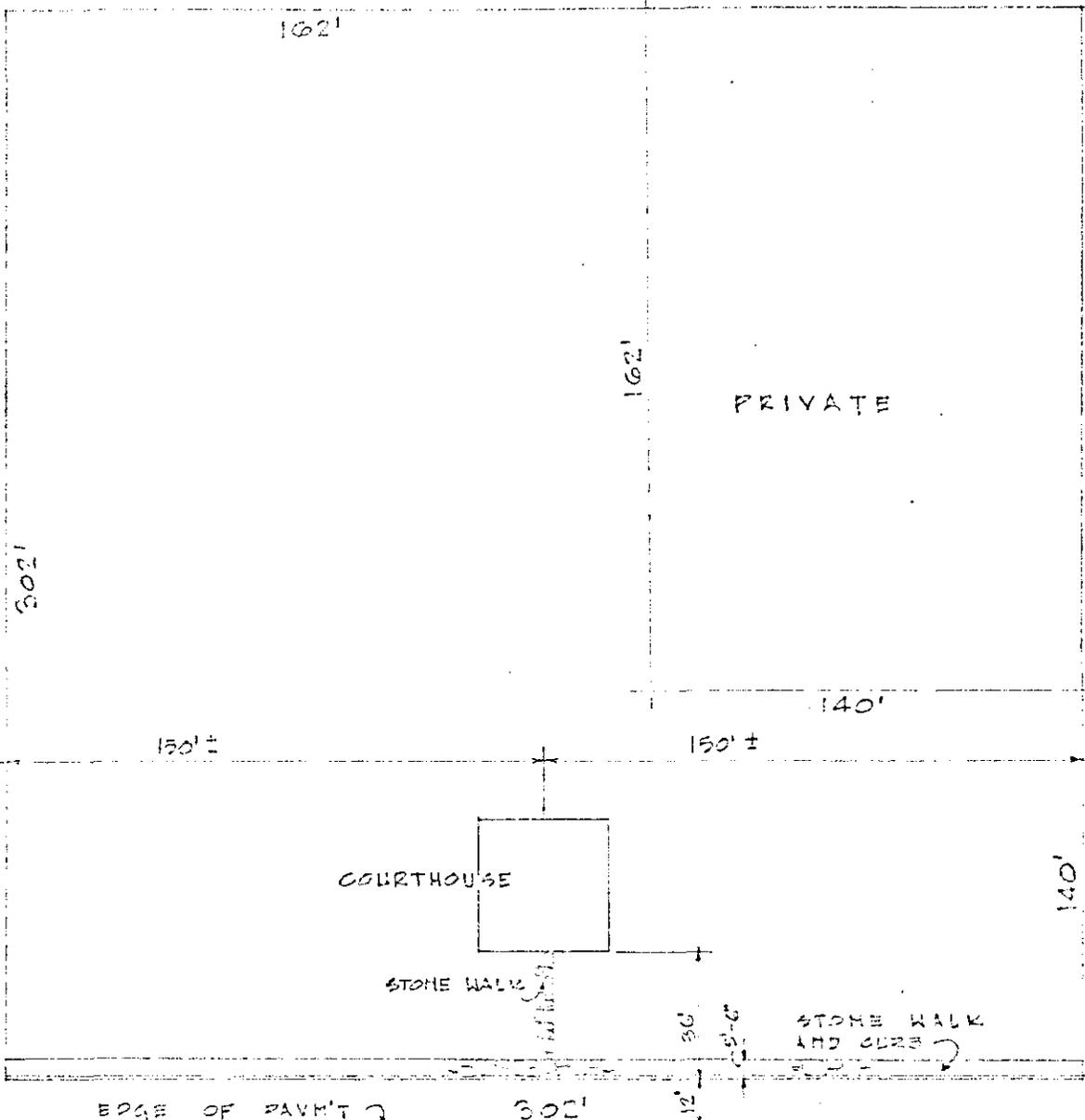
Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



WATER

MARKET



PRIVATE

GAY

COURTHOUSE

STONE WALK

STONE WALK AND CURB

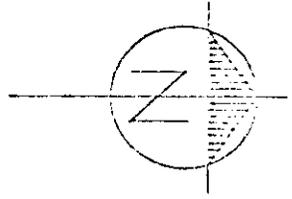
EDGE OF PAV'T

MAIN

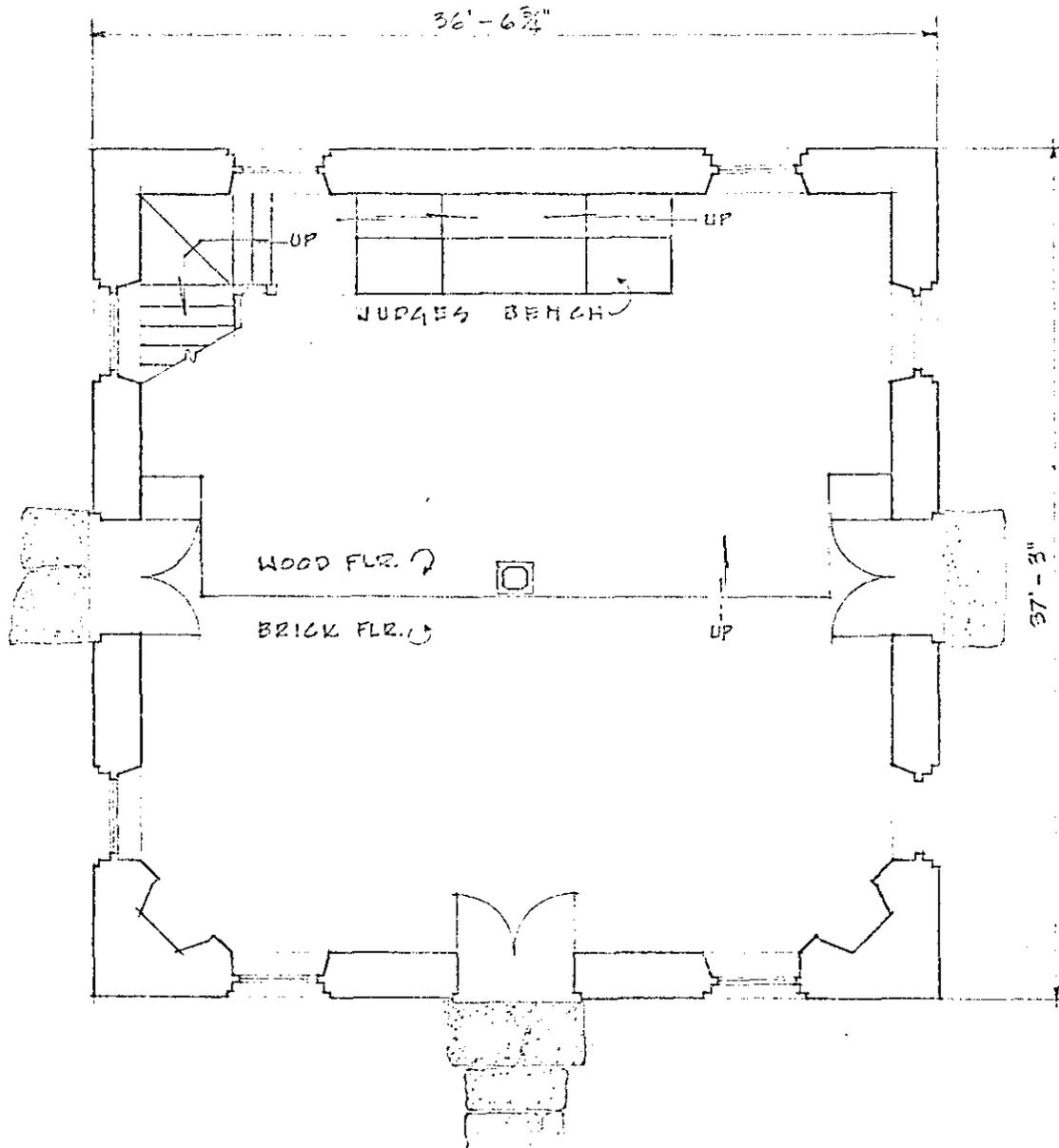
SITE PLAN
SCALE 1" = 50'

Prepared by Kenneth E. Coombs
Architectural Consultant
Missouri State Park Board

June, 1969



OLD JOHNSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE
WARRENSBURG, MISSOURI

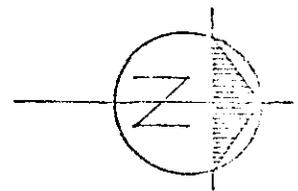


FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'-0''$

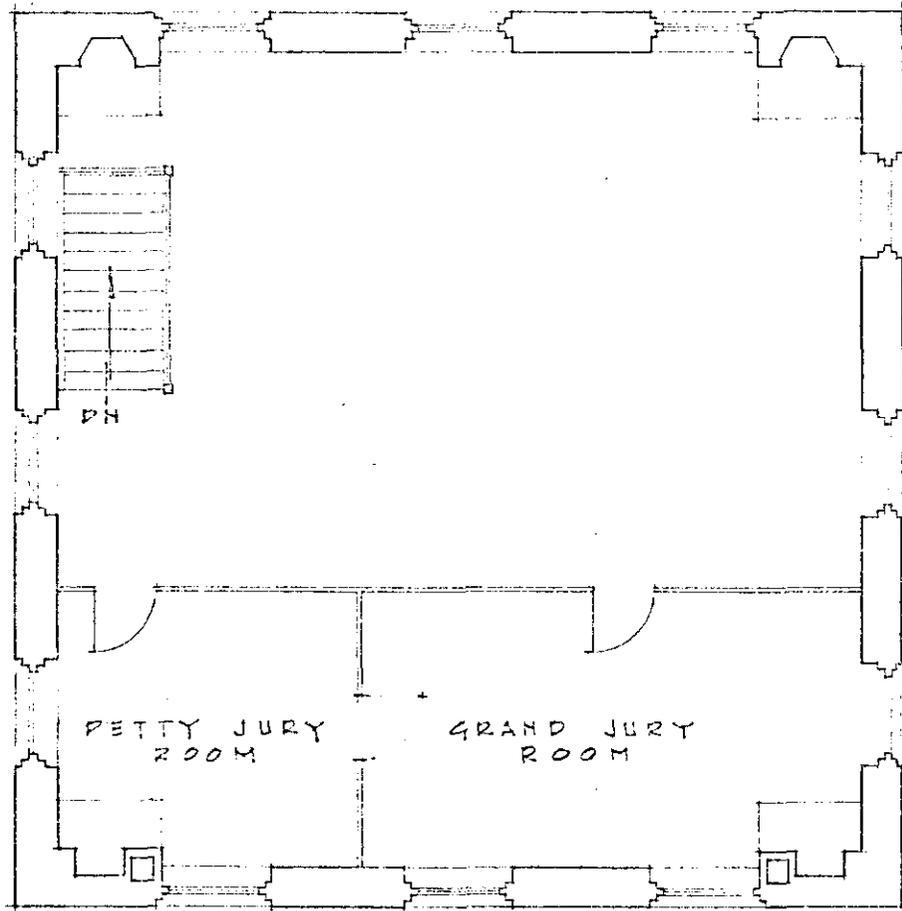
Prepared by Kenneth E. Coombs
 Architectural Consultant
 Missouri State Park Board

June, 1969



OLD JOHNSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

WARRENBURG, MISSOURI

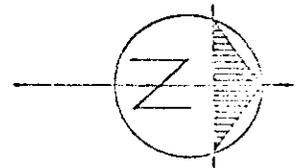


SECOND FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'-0''$

Prepared by Kenneth E. Coombs
Architectural Consultant
Missouri State Park Board

June, 1969



OLD JOHNSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

WARRENSBURG, MISSOURI

Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Johnson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Old Johnson County Courthouse			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Johnson County Courthouse			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Old Public Square			
CITY OR TOWN:			
warrensburg			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Missouri	54093	Johnson	101
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
Kenneth E. Coombs, Architectural Consultant, Missouri State Park Board			
SCALE: 1" = 50'			
DATE: June, 1969			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

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STREET AND NUMBER:			
Old Public Square			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Warrensburg			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Missouri	64093	Johnson	101
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle Warrensburg East			
SCALE:			
1:24,000			
DATE:			
1962			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
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CITY OR TOWN:			
Warrensburg			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Missouri 04093	24	Johnson	101
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
Kenneth E. Coomes, Architectural Consultant, Missouri State Park Board			
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"			
DATE: June, 1969			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
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Kenneth E. Coombs, Architectural Consultant, Missouri State Park			
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CITY OR TOWN:			
Warrensburg			
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Missouri		24	Johnson
64093			103
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle Warrensburg East			
SCALE:			
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SOURCE:			
Kenneth E. Coombs, Architectural Consultant, Missouri State Park			
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0" Board			
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1. Property boundaries where required.			
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3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

JOHNSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE (OLD JOHNSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE)

COUNTY: Johnson

LOCATION: Old Public Square, Warrensburg, Mo. 64093

OWNER: Johnson County Historical Society, Inc.
ADDRESS: c/o Dr. A. L. Stevenson, President
200 S. College Ave., Warrensburg, Mo. 64093

DATE APPROVED BY A.C.: 11-15-69

DATE SENT TO JEFF. CITY: 03-06-70

DATE SENT TO D.C.: 04-01-70

DATE OF REC. IN D.C.:

DATE PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER: 06-15-70

DATE AWARDED CERTIFICATE
(AND PRESENTOR): 04-20-75
Kenneth E. Coombs - AC member

DATE FILE REVIEWED:

The Old Johnson County Courthouse, under design and construction 1838-41, has primary significance as one of the few surviving second quarter, 19th century, Federal style courthouses in Missouri. This significance is greatly enhanced by the fact that a high proportion of the original material is extant and the building is being restored. The courthouse has further significance as the scene of the somewhat unusual trial of Burden vs. Hornsby which occurred in 1869-70.

Name of Site: Old Johnson County Courthouse

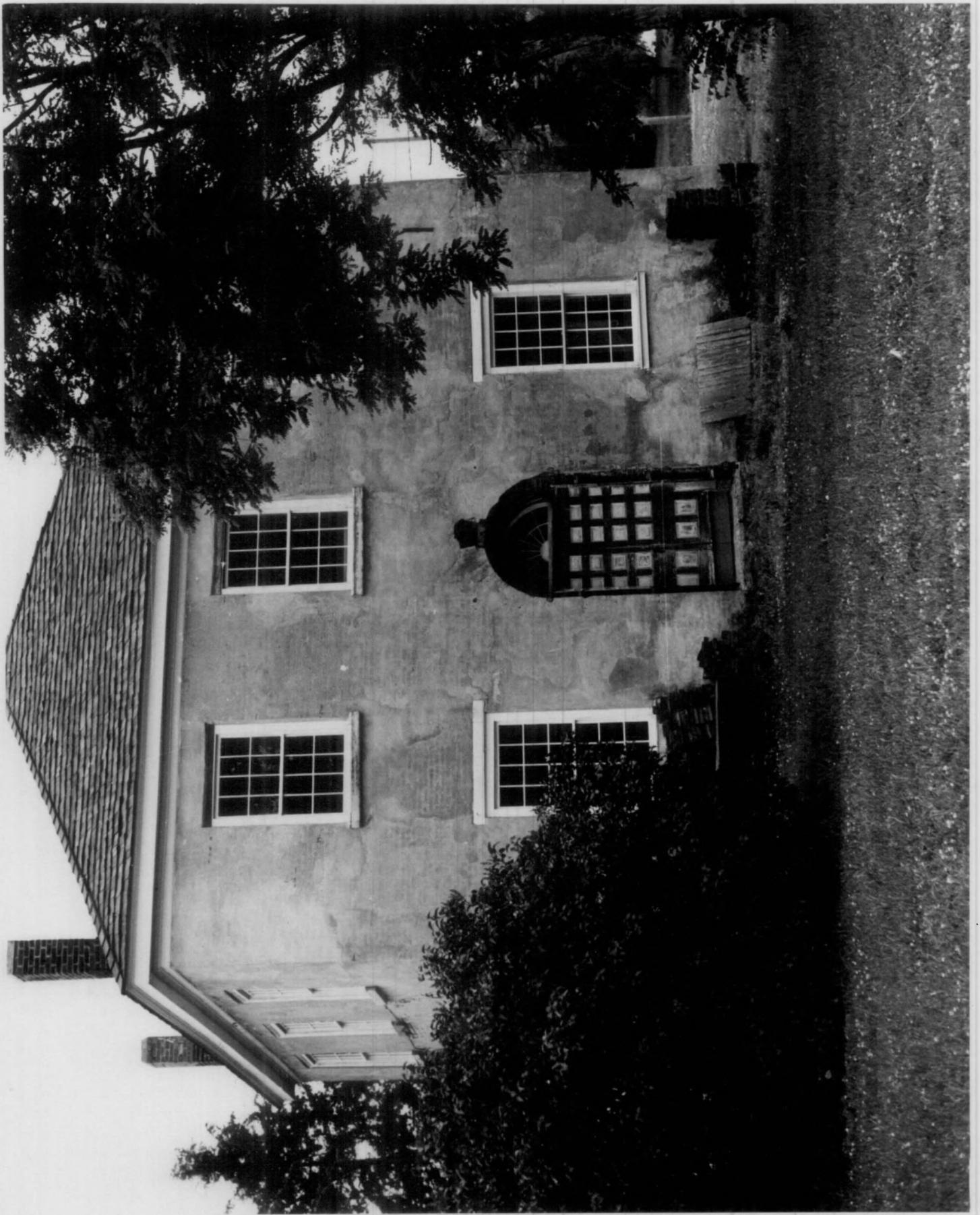
Site Number

Photographer: Coombs

Date of Photo: 6-17-69

View of Photo:

Neg. Size 35mm



Name of site: Old Johnson County Courthouse

Site Number _____

Photographer: Coombs

Date of Photo: 6-17-69

View of Photo: _____

Neg. Size 35mm



Name of Site: Old Johnson County Courthouse

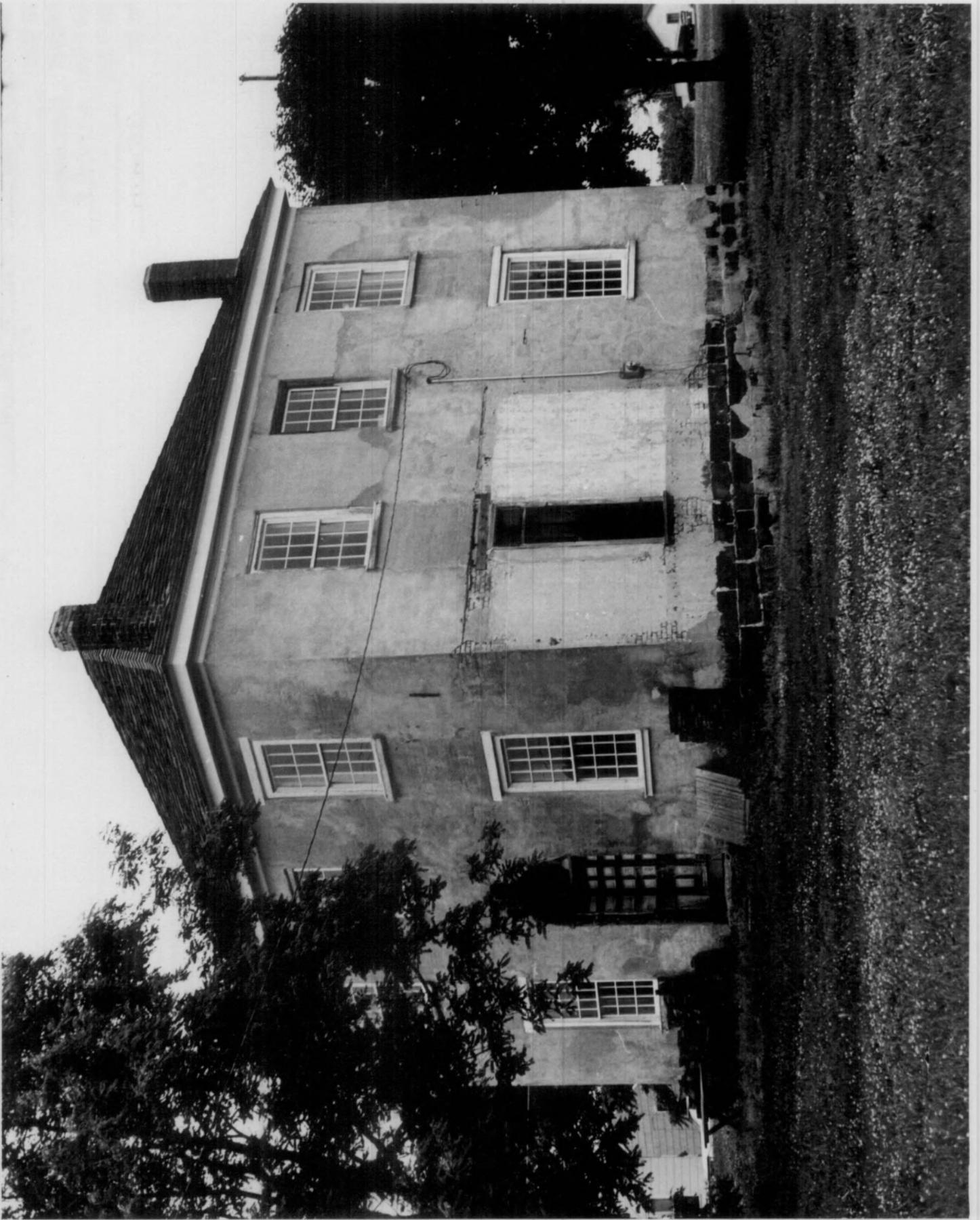
Site Number _____

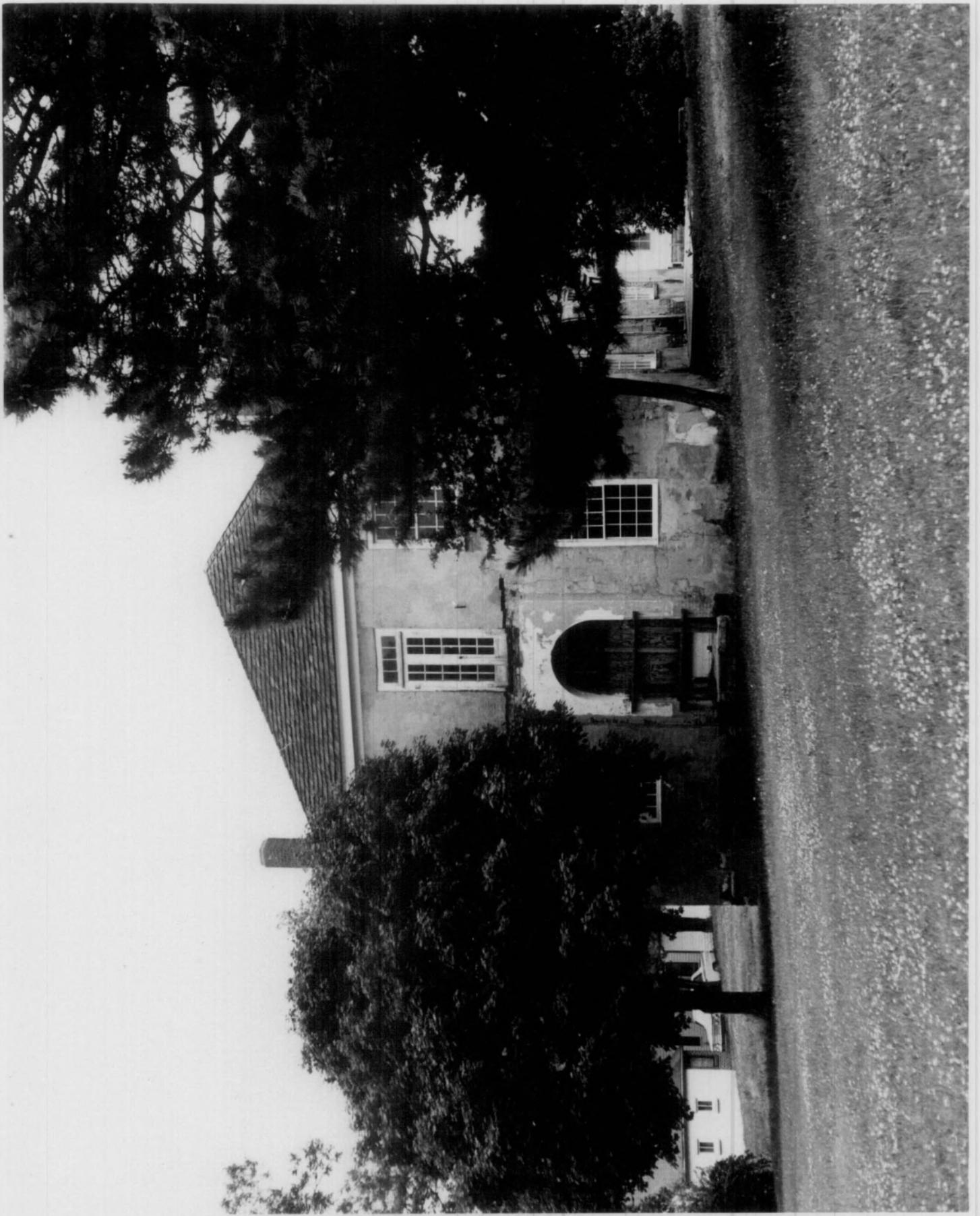
Photographer: Coombs

Date of Photo: 6-17-69

View of Photo: _____

Neg. Size 35mm





Name of Site: Old Johnson County Courthouse

Site Number _____

Photographer: Coombe

Date of Photo: 6-17-69

View of Photo: _____

Neg. Size 35mm



Name of Site: Old Johnson County Courthouse

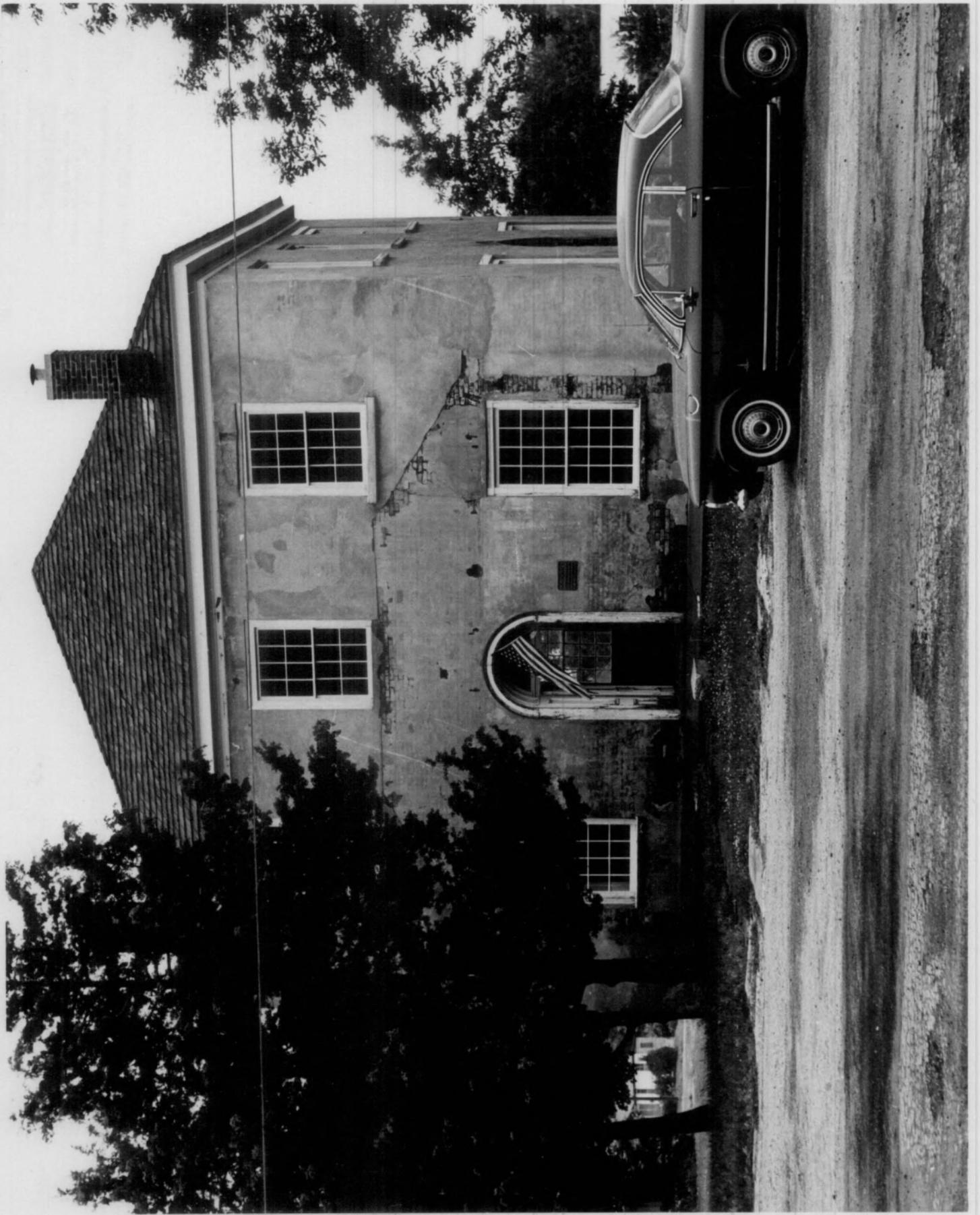
Site Number

Photographer: Coombs

Date of Photo: 6-17-69

View of Photo:

Neg. Size 35mm



Name of Site: Old Johnson County Courthouse

Site Number _____

Photographer: Coombs

Date of Photo: 6-17-69

View of Photo: _____

Neg. Size 35mm



Name of Site: Old Johnson County Courthouse

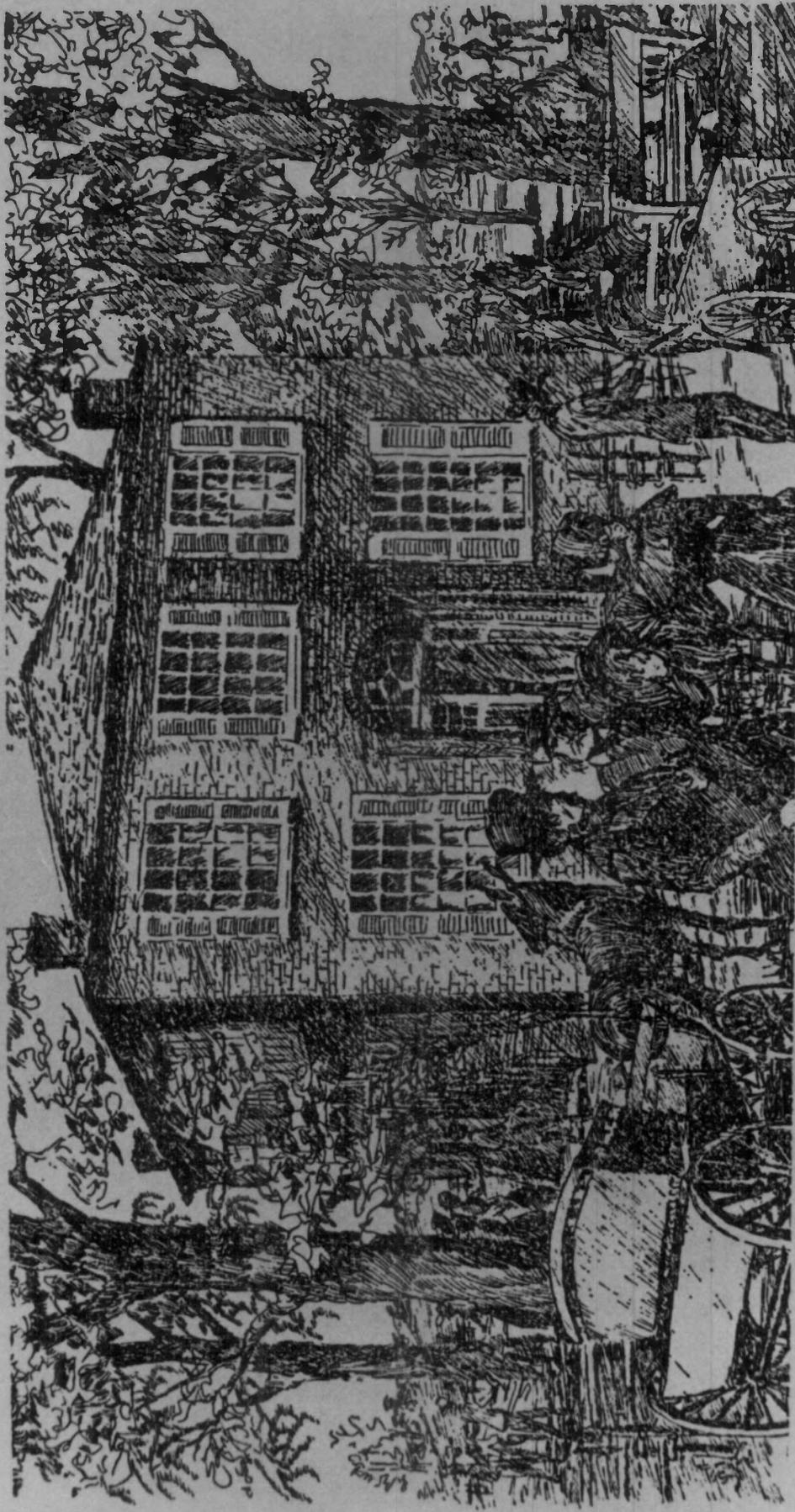
Site Number

Photographer: Copied from Johnson County Historical Society

Date of Photo: Current literature, copied Nov. 1969

View of Photo: SE → NW

Neg. Size 35 mm copy neg.



The Old Courthouse Johnson County 1838

EXTRA
PHOTOS

The North Door
after - being partly
restored since 1969

Old Coe House
Warrensburg, Mo.
Johnson Co.

See
the Hancock photo Oct 20, 1969

received 2/20/70 from Johnson Co
Hist. Soc
Johnson Co, Warrensburg

1838-1841

OLD JOHNSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE



