

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Clark County Courthouse

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 101 East Court Street not for publication

city, town Kahoka vicinity of

state Missouri code 29 county Clark code 045

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> In process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

4. Owner of Property

name Clark County Court

street & number Clark County Courthouse, Johnson & Court Streets

city, town Kahoka vicinity of state Missouri 63445

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds

street & number Clark County Courthouse, Johnson & Court Streets

city, town Kahoka state Missouri 63445

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Encyclopedia of Missouri Courthouses has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records University of Missouri - Columbia, Extension Division

city, town Columbia state Missouri

# 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The rectangular plan Clark County Courthouse is a 2 story brick structure built with a cross type floor plan. It rests on a slightly raised basement of stone rubble masonry crowned by several courses of dressed stone & an ashlar water table. Embellished with quoins, a bracketed eave, & an octagonal cupola, the building had a central bay 1st floor entrance on each facade. These entrances had double leaf doorways with a petal shaped, fan light transom above; however, the S facade entrance has been altered to a single leaf door & the E facade entrance has now been altered to a window. Entrances & the large attenuated, double hung windows have segmentally arched headers. In the gable ends & the central gable peaks on the E & W facades there are small circular windows which repeat the petal design of the transoms. These round openings & the attenuated windows in the cupola have been closed up. The brackets at the eave line of the main roof & the cupola are intact, however they have been enclosed. Ornate ridge cresting highlights the domed roof of the cupola. On the S facade 2nd story, the central bay was an enlarged window which served as a doorway leading to a decorative iron balcony. Recently this window has been changed to a small modern type window which created a public outcry. Currently a plan is being considered to restore the existing windows rather than to replace them. In 1934, as part of a WPA project, the building's exterior was covered with a white stucco. Repair & maintenance work to the eaves & stucco were done in 1976.

The county jail & sheriff's office are located in the basement level & are reached by both an interior stair (SE corner) & an E facade exterior entrance with small frame, pent roofed vestibule. The first floor originally had a cross plan with hallways running both N to S & E to W. Only the N/S hall remains due to the fact that the room plan to the E was enlarged thus eliminating the hall. This floor retains its original grecian ear millwork, interior transoms above the doorways, & a large curving stair at the SE corner. The oak balustrade is composed of ornately turned balusters, molded handrail, & chamfered newel with ball finial. The N rooms of this floor were built as fireproof vaults. Ceilings on this & the 2nd floor have been lowered for heating purposes. County offices on this floor include the Assessor, Treasurer, Recorder, County Clerk & Circuit Clerk. Originally the Tax Collector, Surveyor, Sheriff, Representative in Legislature also had offices here. The 2nd floor contains the large courtroom, a conference room, Judge's room, jury room & bath. The Judge's bench & jury seats are located on a raised platform & are original to the courthouse.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1871

Builder/Architect W.B. Lakeworthy

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Retaining its original form, the Clark County Courthouse is one of the few examples remaining in Missouri of a courthouse from the 1870's & therefore is significant according to item C for criteria of evaluation; it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period & style of construction.

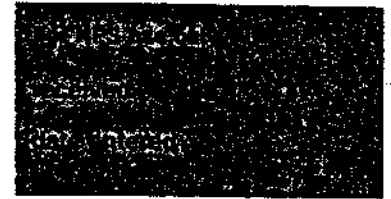
Its areas of significance, architecture & government, are closely bound together. During the 19th & 20th centuries, Missouri's 114 counties built more than 360 courthouses, usually in the middle of a public square. Today at least 22 of these are included on the National Register of Historic Places. "County government was important to the Missouri settlers & no public building was physically or symbolically closer to the people than their county courthouse."<sup>1</sup> The Clark County Courthouse combines several of the early styles built in Missouri. Typical 1820-70's buildings were either squarish, 2 story with a central entry, regularly placed multi-paned windows & a hip roof with a cupola or the temple type with a rectangular plan, gable roof & portico. Often these buildings were red brick trimmed in white & had ornamental cornices. A study of the Clark County Courthouse indicates the careful & aesthetically pleasing combination of the above typical features making the building a fine example of the 1870's style of public architecture found in Missouri.

The location of Clark County's seat of justice changed 3 times in the 1800's. Originally established in Waterloo, the 1st county seat authorized a plan for a brick structure in 1837. This 2 story building which cost \$4,700 & was completed in 1839 served until 1847 when the county seat was moved to Alexandria, on the eastern edge of the County & along the banks of the Mississippi River. Again a 2 story brick structure was erected & the Court first convened in the new courthouse on June 11, 1849. In 1854, when the County voted to move back to Waterloo due to repeated flooding at Alexandria, the original courthouse was revived & placed back into service in November, 1855. An act of the state legislature relocated the county seat to a more central site at Kahoka on February 20, 1865, however a vote the following year was to move the county seat to Clark City. During the next few years of battling over the site, the County Court & its records remained at Waterloo. Finally in October of 1870 with donations of \$12,000 from private investors, 40 town lots by William Johnson (Johnson's Addition) & \$2,000 in citizens subscription, the court appropriated \$15,000 for the construction of a new courthouse at Kahoka. Peter S. Washburn, who was appointed superintendent in November, & W.B. Lakeworthy, an English architect known to have lived in Quincy, filed plans with variations A-G with the County Clerk that were approved December 6, 1870. The firm of J.G. Orr & P.H. Conner of Quincy received the contract with a bid of \$18,985 on December 22, 1870. Specifications for the 45 x 72' brick 2 story building included 9 x 4½ x 2½" brick, floors in the courtroom to be deafened with sawdust & mortar, both fireproof vaults & roof, & an octagonal cupola at the crossing. With construction continuing through 1871, the seat of justice was moved & the 1st term of court held in the new courthouse was on January 15, 1872. The final cost was \$22,815.86.

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CLARK COUNTY COURTHOUSE



Continuation sheet 1 Item number 8 Page 1

This fine example of early public architecture has continued to serve the many needs of the County with courtroom, jail & offices. It also fills social & educational needs as a public meeting area & storehouse of information, & the open square which surrounds the courthouse creates a pleasant green space for outdoor events & recreational needs. These factors, combined with the historical associations of 1 of Missouri's earliest Counties (organized 1818, reorganized 1836 & named for William Clark of the Lewis & Clark expedition) & the fine architectural detailing of its ediface, are recognized by the citizens of Clark County, who are emphatically proud of their courthouse.

<sup>1</sup>Encyclopedia of Missouri Courthouses, Marion M. Ohman

Continuation Sheet 1 Item Number 9 Page 1

History of Lewis, Clark, Knox & Scotland Counties, MO 1887  
Reprint Stevens Publishing Co., Astoria, Ill

Johnson's Illustrated & Historical Atlas, Clark County, MO  
1896

Standard Atlas of Clark County, MO  
George A. Ogle & Co., Chicago 1915

Continuation Sheet 1 Item Number 11 Page 1

2. Linda Donavan Harper, Historic Preservation Specialist  
Northeast Missouri Regional Planning Commission  
P.O. Box 965  
Kirksville  
3/83  
816/665-4615  
MO 63445
3. James M. Denny, State Contact Person and  
Chief, Nominations & Survey  
Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Parks & Historic Preservation  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City  
July 26, 1983  
314/751-4096  
Missouri 65102

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

An Illustrated Historical Atlas, Clark County, Missouri  
Edwards Brothers of MO, Philadelphia, PA 1878  
Encyclopedia of Missouri Courthouses, Marion M. Ohman  
University of MO-Columbia, Extension Division, 1981

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Kahoka, MO

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

1	5	6	0	7	7	4	10	4	4	7	5	5	10	10
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Blk 5, Johnson's Addition, Kahoka, MO

This block is used as a public square with the Courthouse located in the center of the block.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title 1. Denise Bunker & Jeri Murphy

organization Girl Scout Heritage Badge Project date 3/83

street & number 1005 E. Avenue, RR 3 telephone 816/727-3674; 816/727-2100

city or town Kahoka state MO 63445

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title date 6-17-83

For NPS use only

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

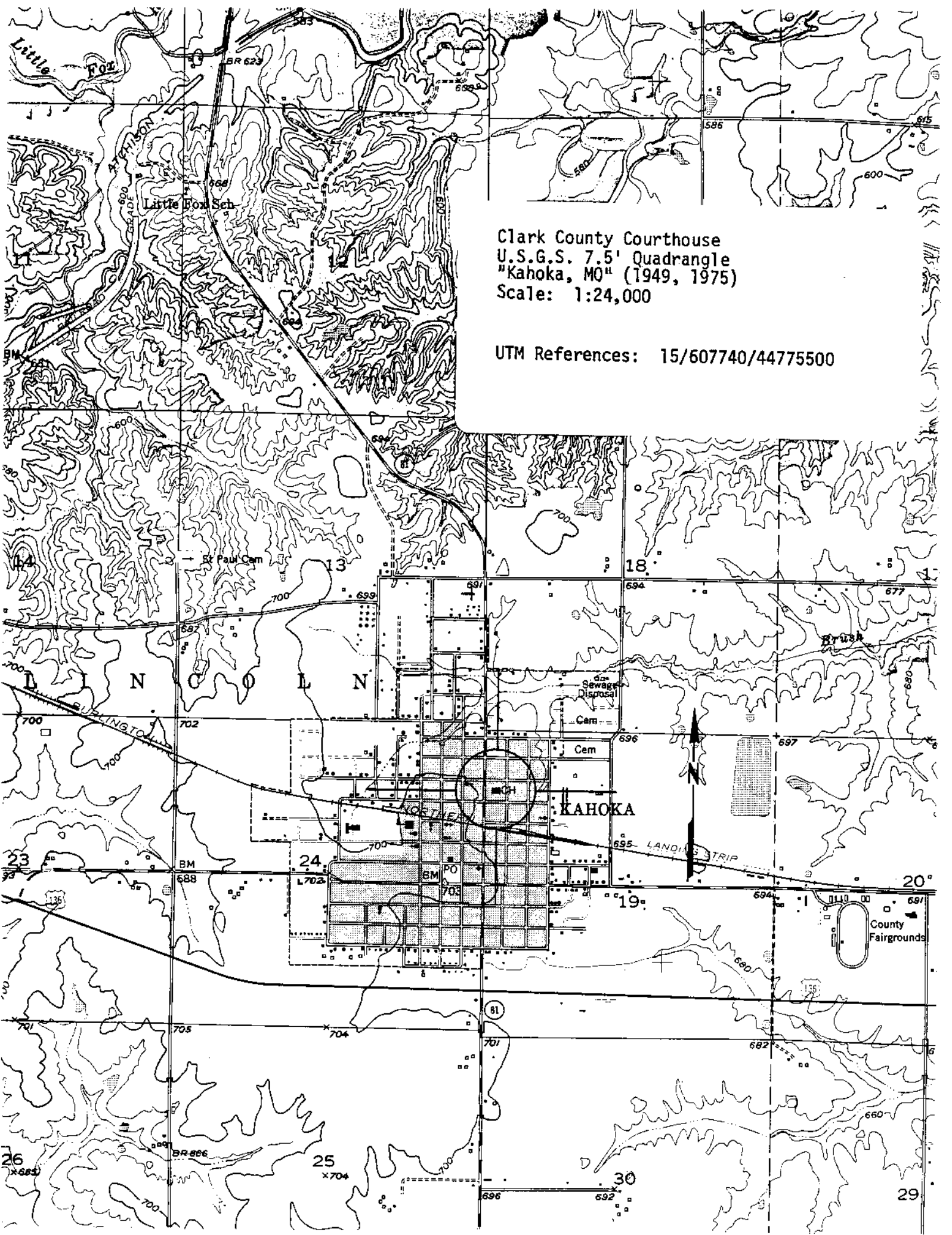
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



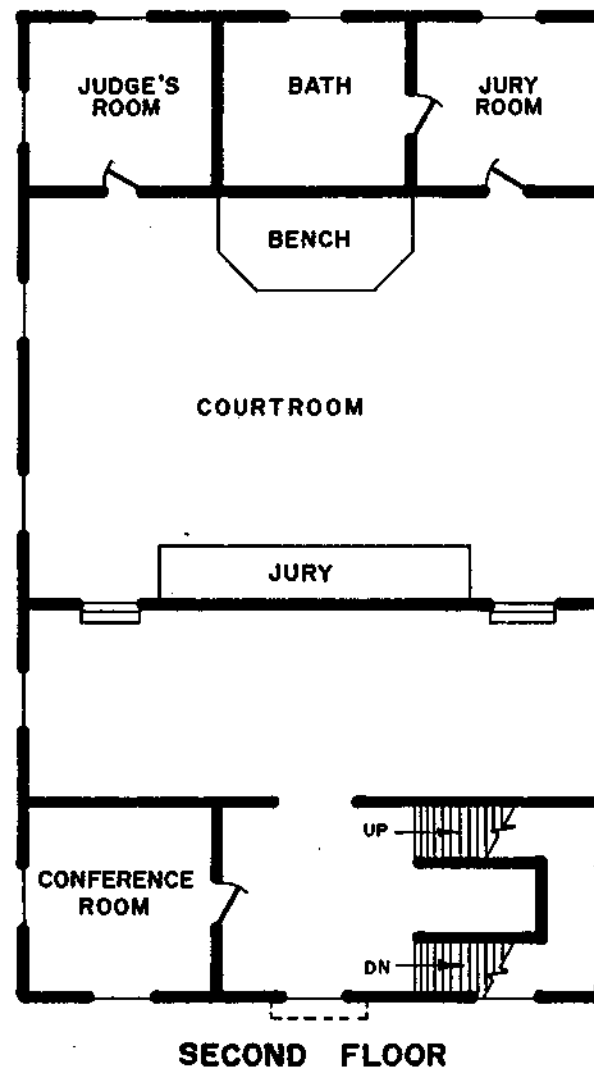
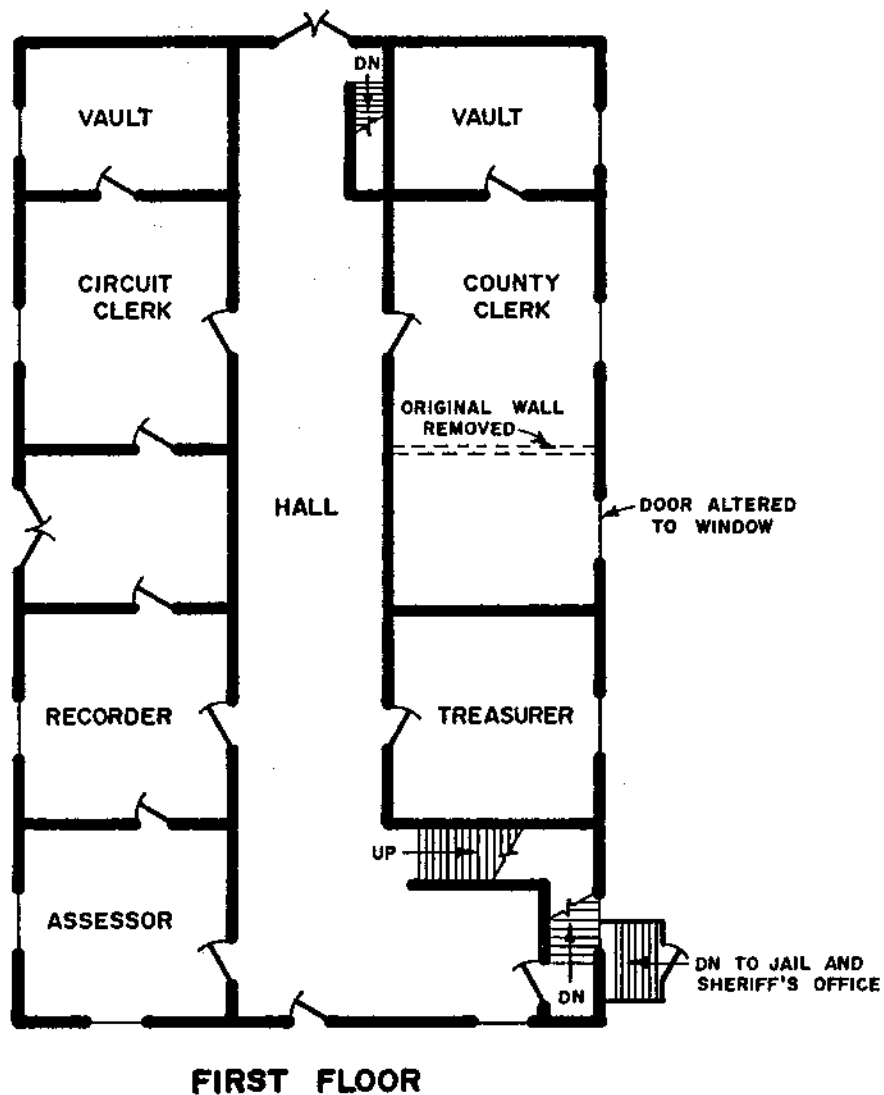
Clark County Courthouse  
U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle  
"Kahoka, MO" (1949, 1975)  
Scale: 1:24,000

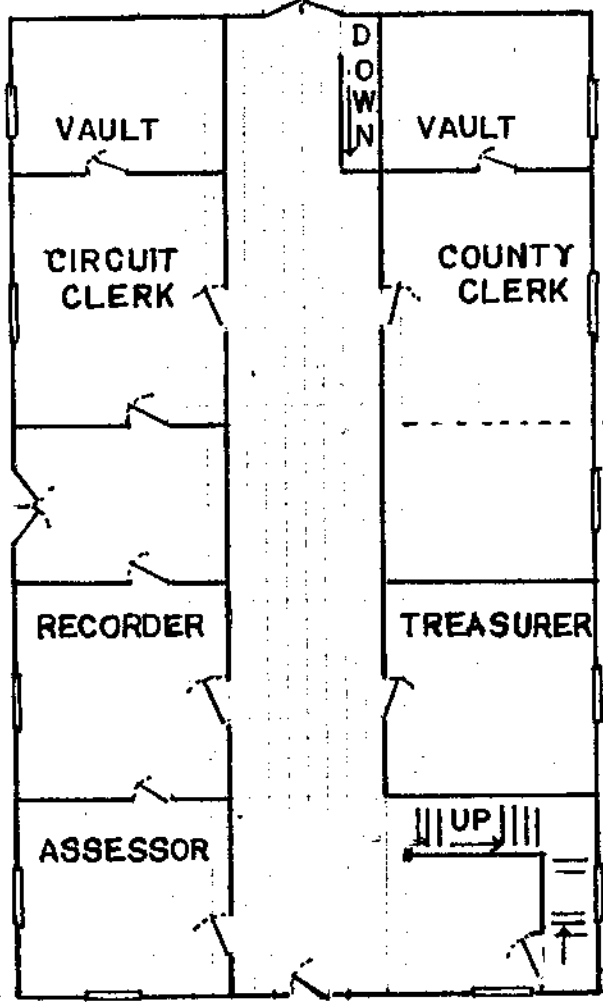
UTM References: 15/607740/44775500

FLOOR PLANS  
CLARK COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
KAHOKA, MISSOURI



NOT TO SCALE

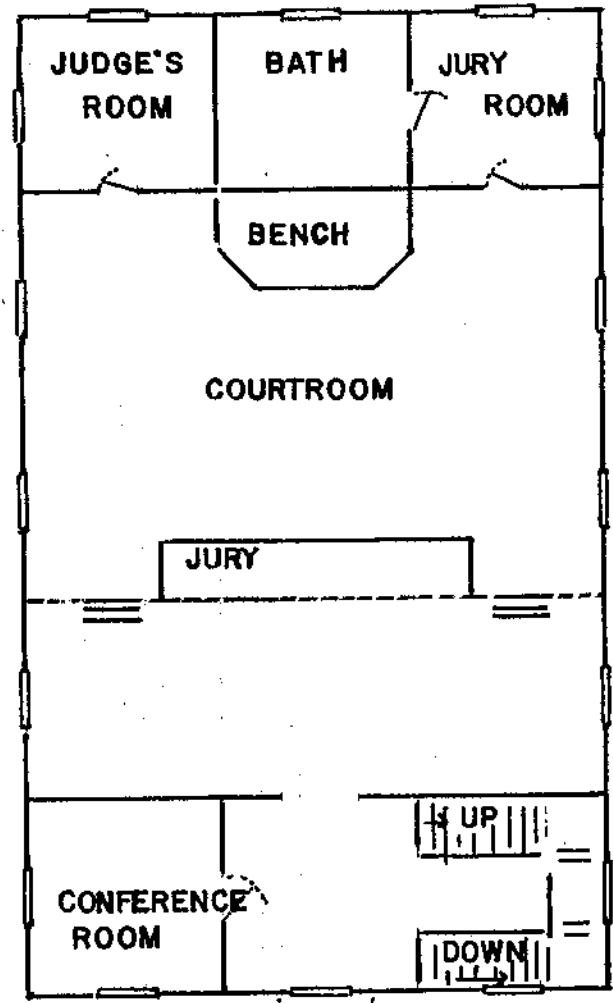




1st FLOOR

→ ORIGINAL WALL REMOVED  
 → DOOR ALTERED TO WINDOW

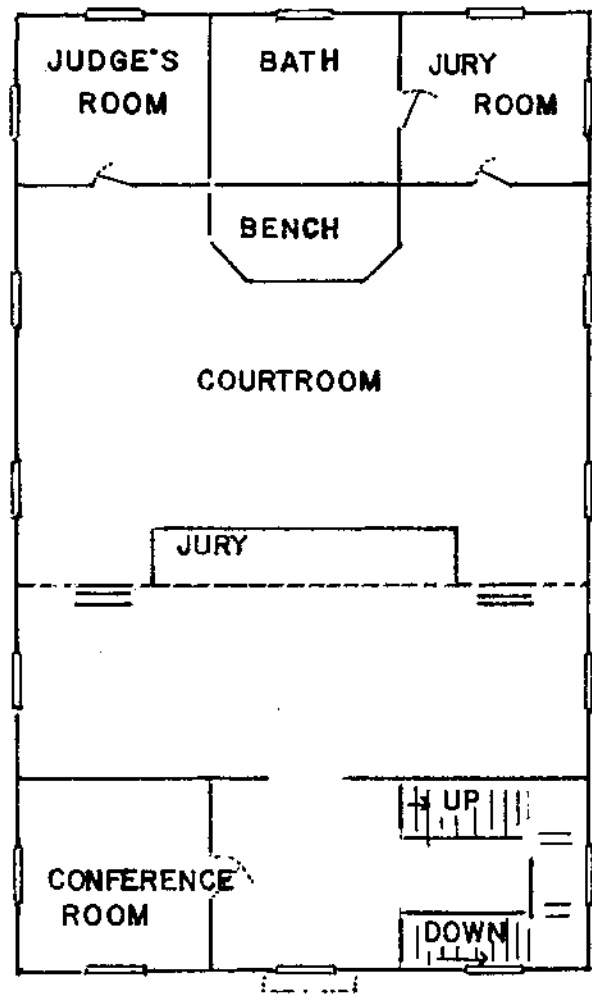
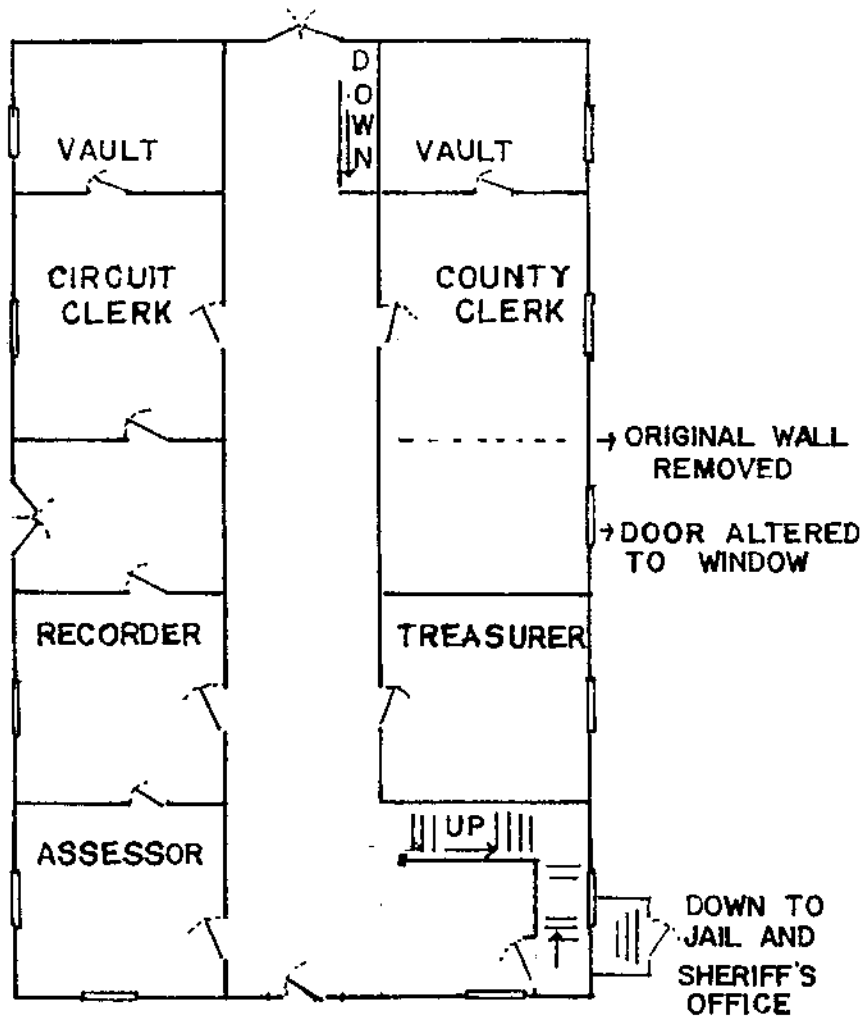
DOWN TO JAIL AND SHERIFF'S OFFICE



2nd FLOOR

CLARK COUNTY COURTHOUSE

NOT TO SCALE



CLARK COUNTY COURTHOUSE

NOT TO SCALE



## CLARK COUNTY

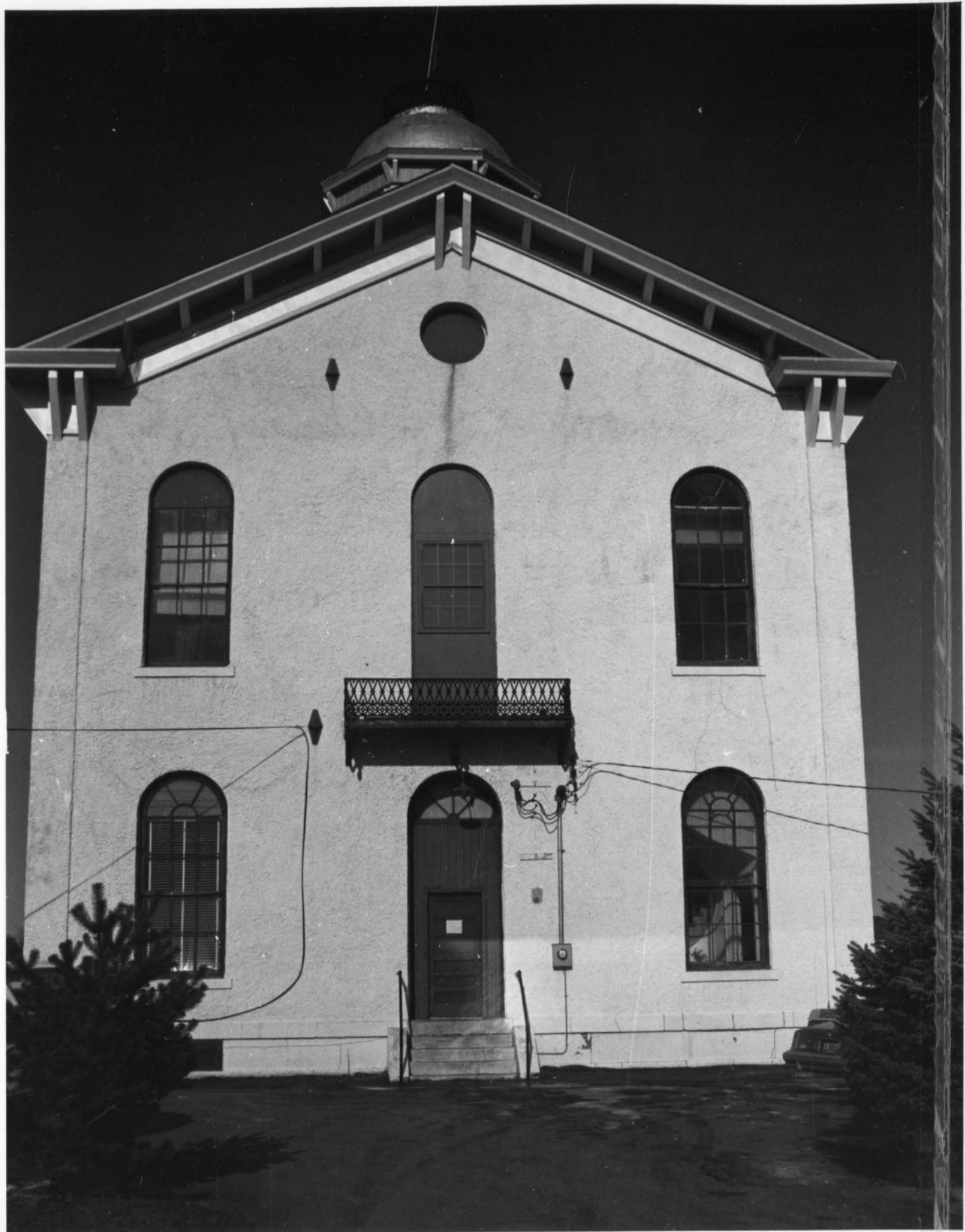
Missouri's first northern border county, organized in 1836, is named for explorer William Clark. In 1838, Iowa Territory and the State of Missouri mobilized troops on the nearby border in a boundary dispute called the Honey War for the bee trees in the area. Compromising averted hostilities. In 1854, the Supreme Court finally set the Missouri-Iowa boundary at the old 1824 Iowa, Sink, and Fox Indian Purchase line.

Clark County is distinguished as the site of the Battle of Athens, Aug. 5, 1861, one of two northernmost Civil War skirmishes. (The other was at Salmesville, Ohio, July 20, 1861.) At Athens, about 500 Union troops under Col. David Moore, routed some 800 pro-Southern state guards under Col. M. E. Green in one loss from Civil War action.

The famed Anti-Horse Thief Association was first organized by David McKee, at Luray, to the west, 1854, to curb frontier banditry by capture and legal prosecution of criminals. Revived in 1862, the society had over 40,000 members in 11 states by the early 1880s. In 1926, the word "Horse" was dropped from the name.

Directed by the Historical Society of Missouri  
Missouri Historical Society, Columbia, Mo.



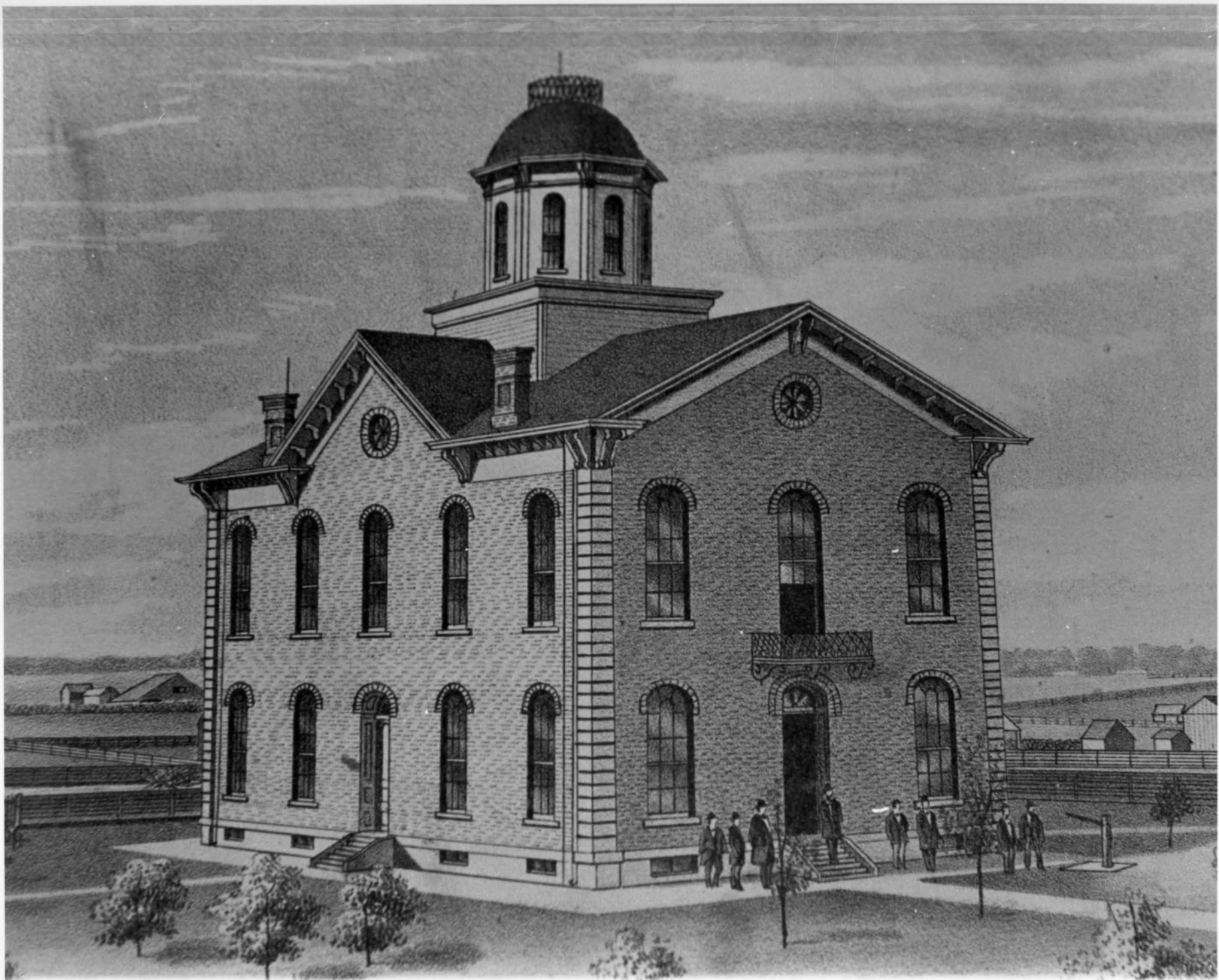


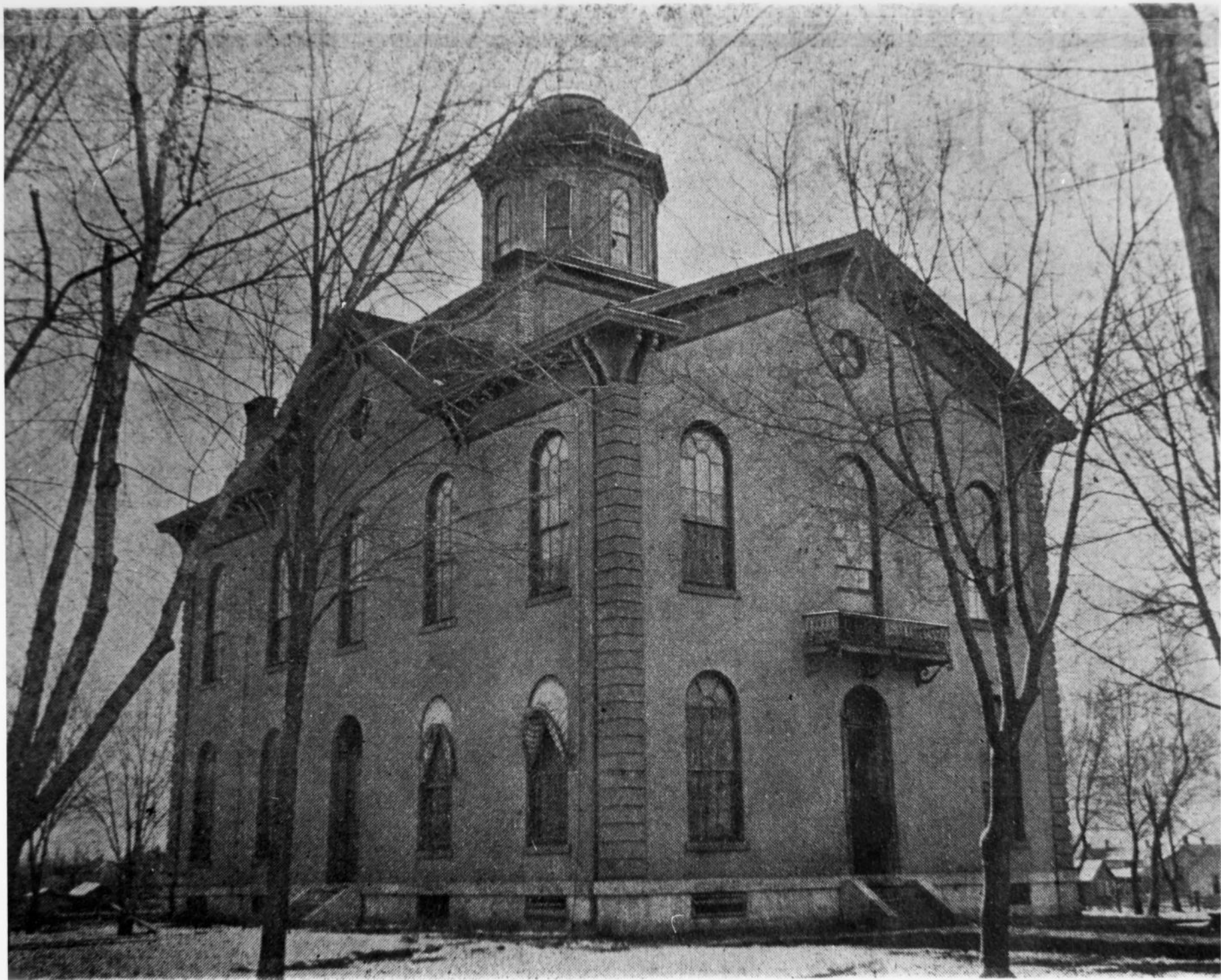














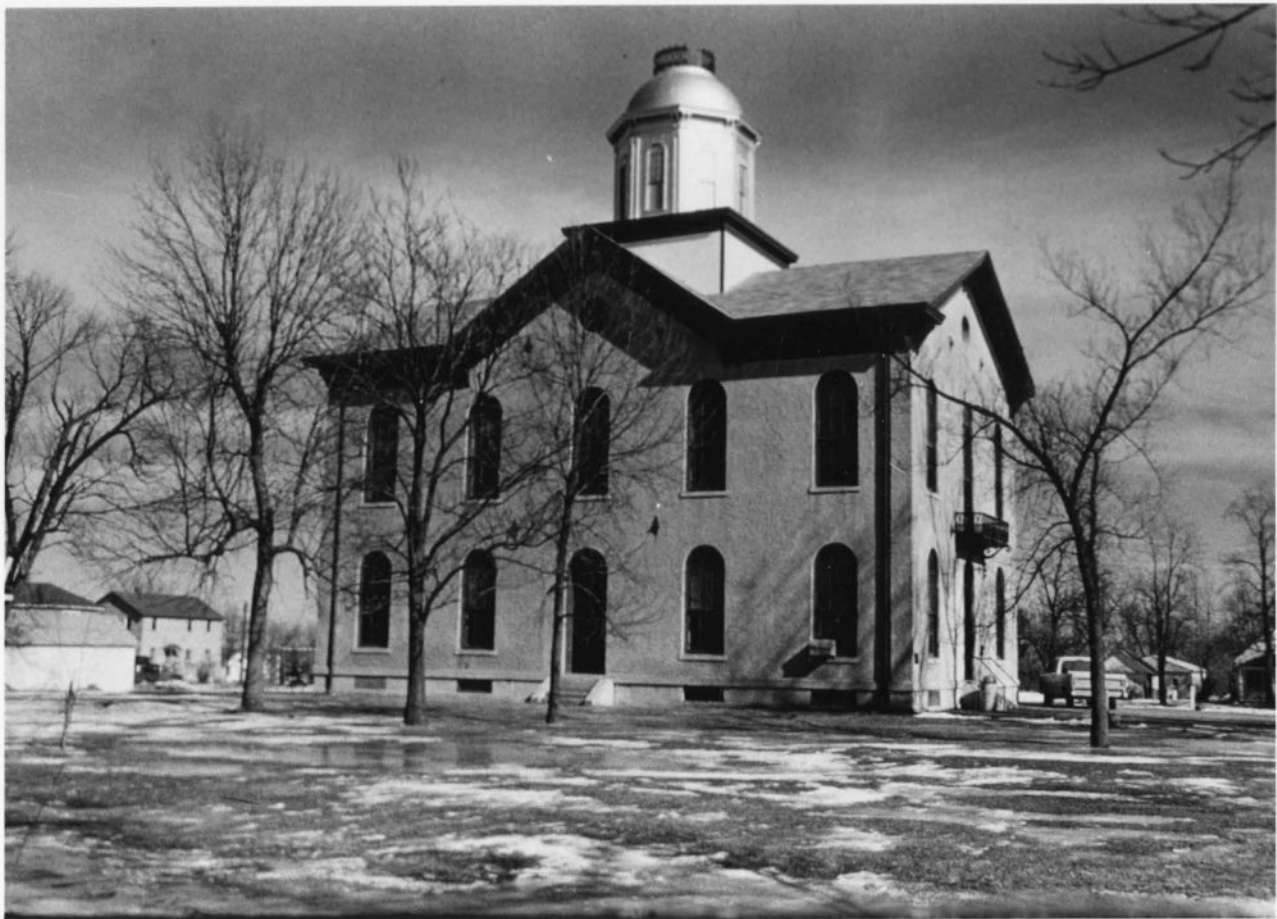












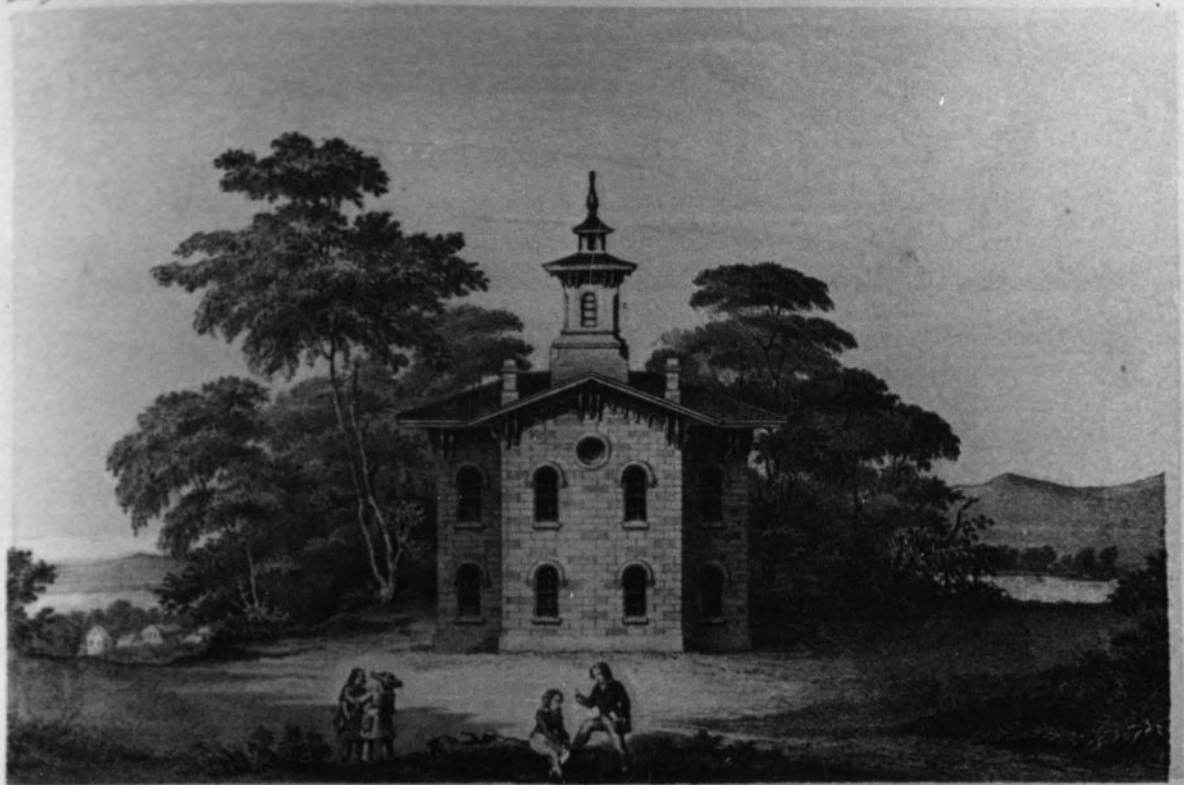






CLARK COUNTY COURTHOUSE





Earl Swan Arch.

P. S. Duvall's Steam Lith. Press. Phila.

FRONT ELEVATION.



Earl Swan Arch.

P. S. Duvall's Steam Lith. Press. Phila.