**Pulaski County Courthouse**

**Courthouse Square**

**Waynesville, Missouri 65583**

**Missouri State Historical Survey**

**1979**

**Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources**

**Jefferson City, Missouri 65102**
DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair

CHECK ONE

- Deteriorated
- Unaltered
- Altered

CHECK ONE

- Original Site
- Moved
- Date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Pulaski County Courthouse, Waynesville, Missouri is a two story brick building constructed in the Romanesque Revival style with Italianate detailing.

EXTERIOR

The courthouse measures approximately 63' along its north side, 60' along its east side and 40' along the south. The west side of the building is irregularly shaped.

The courthouse is constructed of red brick laid in common bond. The coursed, quarry-faced ashlar foundations of native limestone are topped with a water table. Decorative details of the courthouse facade are of brick and wood and are painted white throughout. The roof varies in type over the several sections of the building, but it is covered with shingles entirely.

The design of the east facade centers on the main entrance to the building. Here, a recessed double paneled door is topped by a molded and paneled hood which is decorated with wooden modillions and supported on giant wooden brackets. Flanking this entrance are six round arched windows with transoms and radiating voussoirs of brick headers. They feature corbeled label stops at impost level, and each rests on a brick lugsill. Two of these windows are bricked over on this side. This window type is repeated on the lower level of all of the sides of the courthouse.

At the second floor level two, round-arched, twenty-five light windows are topped with parapet gabled arches with label stops at the attic level.

The west facade includes both a campanile and a five-sided apse. The low-pitched pyramid roof of the campanile caps four pairs of round-arched openings with impost blocks of brick. Each of these openings is decorated with a wooden spindle balustrade, painted white. Beneath the shaped exposed rafters which edge the campanile's roof lies a decorative corbel table. Its twin is located beneath the paired openings on each side. The upper level windows on this side are double-hung and soldier arched. The pentagonal apse on this side is topped with a low pitched pentagonal roof and is tooth jointed at its several exterior corners.

The south facade of the courthouse is the location of the most commonly used entrance to the building. The roof here is parapet gabled with label stops. The open portico porch is supported by brick piers and topped with a Queen Anne arch and a decorative grill, both of wrought iron. On the upper level, above a brick stringcourse which is flanked on either end by panels of brick laid in a herringbone pattern, four double-hung windows rest which feature brick tympana ornamented with three projecting headers each. Above, at attic level, lies a centrally located, projecting brick shield with the date "1903" affixed diagonally.
The north facade of the courthouse is partially blocked from view by the County Health Building. This facade has a parapet gabled roof with label stops, identical to that of the south facade, and it terminates on the west with the pentagonal apse. On the upper level, two pairs of double-hung windows are located which have brick tympana ornamented as those on the south facade. In the gable peak a blank shield of brick is located.

INTERIOR

The interior of the Pulaski County Courthouse has been remodeled within the last five years. The building has neither an attic nor a basement.

On the first floor rooms are grouped around a central, north-south corridor (see plan). Although paneling has been added to the walls on this floor and drop ceilings have been installed, the original wood frames around the windows and doors and the baseboards have not been altered. The new ceiling in the office of the county clerk was hung above its stromboli fan with wooden blades, leaving this quaint fixture exposed.

The original stairway with its spindle balustrade, located at the south end of the courthouse, leads to the second floor. The main feature of this floor is the English oak ceiling of exposed rafters and joists in the courtroom which was saved due to the efforts of the Pulaski County Historical Society during remodeling.

ALTERATIONS

In addition to the drop ceilings already mentioned, within the last five years a new central heating system has been installed and most of the walls have been covered with paneling.

SITE

The Pulaski County Courthouse is located on the courthouse square in Waynesville, Missouri. This area encompasses one city block in the downtown business district of this town. It is bordered on the north by North Street, on the south by Business Route 66, on the east by Linn Street and on the west by Benton Street. The square is also the location of the County Health Building, a public office building and the County Jail. Situated throughout the square are numerous benches and large shade trees.
PRESENT STATUS AND CONDITION

The courthouse has been maintained over the years and is without any obvious need for repair. It is not threatened at the present time and the county has no plans to abandon it.
The Pulaski County Courthouse in Waynesville, Missouri is significant as a rare local example of the Romanesque Revival style with Italianate detailing. In addition, this building symbolizes to the local inhabitants the growth and development of government in their county.

Pulaski County was named for an exiled Polish general of the Revolutionary War who fell at the siege of Savannah, Georgia in 1779. The county originally included parts of Dallas, Webster, Texas, Phelps, Maries, Miller and Camden Counties when it was organized in 1833, along with the entire counties of Pulaski, Laclede and Wright as they are presently delineated. In 1859, however, the county was reorganized and its boundaries were set at their present limits.

The first meeting of the Pulaski County Court was held in 1834 at the home of Jesse Boileau. At that time it was decided that the home of Green B. Williams at Bear Creek would be the county seat until another location could be found. In 1835 the court moved to the home of James A. Bates at the present site of Waynesville, Missouri. Business was conducted here for about three years, and in 1838 the court again moved, this time to the home of William Moore nearby. It was from this site that the first county court records were maintained.

By this time the county was growing and its elected officials saw the need for a permanent courthouse. In 1839, Isaac N. Davis, John B. Harrison and Jacob Wassum were appointed to locate a site and submit plans for a courthouse to be located as close to Moore’s house as possible. For this purpose, Moore donated one acre of land on a hill south of his house. On this site, in August, 1840, the first of four Pulaski County Courthouses was built. It took construction workers two weeks to complete the two story log structure which had as its major feature only a single glass window.

In 1843 the town of Waynesville was designated as the permanent county seat of Pulaski County and a new site was chosen. Allan Hamor was given the contract to build the next courthouse. The new courthouse was larger than the first, and served the county through the Civil War, when it became a hospital for Union troops.

At the War's end the Union troops withdrew. Because the male population had been substantially cut by the war, women and children formed the bulk of the inhabitants of the county at this date. The completion of the railroad through the county in 1867,
however, began the gradual but steady regrowth and repopulation of the area.

In 1872 the county court condemned the second Pulaski County Courthouse as being unfit for the county and no longer safe due to damages incurred during the Civil War. In April of that year the State Legislature appropriated $2,000 for the construction of a new courthouse on the same site. To raise money for the new building a $6,000 bond issue was approved, with bonds sold at a minimum of .85¢ each. An additional $1,500 was appropriated by the State Legislature the following year to supplement the fund. W.K. Kerr was appointed superintendent of construction of the new two story brick courthouse which was then constructed.

The third Pulaski County Courthouse was struck by lightning on June 3, 1903 and destroyed. The County Clerk was able to salvage his records, however, so the business of the county government was able to continue.

On June 20, 1903 the County Court met on the lawn of Courthouse Square in Waynesville. Present at the meeting was the architect, H. H. Hohenschild who determined that the ruins left after the fire caused by the lightning were unfit for habitation.

In July, 1903 the County Court drew up the contract for the construction of the present Pulaski County Courthouse. Edward Long was chosen as the contractor and William Mitchell as the builder. Both men were from Rolla, Missouri. This new courthouse was completed the same year.

The architect of the Pulaski County Courthouse was Henry H. Hohenschild, a Democratic State Senator under Governor Lon Vest Stephens (1896-1900) and the State Architect at that time. He was born in St. Louis and received all of his basic education there. It is reported that he studied at several architectural schools, but their names and locations go unmentioned. In 1885 Hohenschild became a charter member of the Western Association of Architects, and after 1899 he was a member of the American Institute of Architects, though he resigned from this body in 1917. In the 1890's he practiced in Rolla, Missouri, but by 1909 he had set up an office in St. Louis. He died in 1928.

Not much is known of Hohenschild's work, but it is certain that he designed a large number of government buildings in Missouri in his lifetime. In addition to the courthouse under discussion, these include county courthouses in Pike (1917-1919, Bowling Green), Scott (1912-1913, Benton), Washington (1907-1908, Potosi) and
Pemiscot (1924, Caruthersville) Counties in Missouri. Of these, two are designed in an Italianate related style with campanile (Pulaski and Washington, both in brick), one in the Neoclassical Revival style (Pike, smoothed and coursed cut stone), one in the Beaux Arts style (Scott, brick, stone and terracotta) and one in what can only be termed the Prairie Classical style (Pemiscot, brick and terracotta). This building exhibits an unusual blend of classical details and innovative terracotta pilaster capitals which recall, in a simplified way, the exterior piers of Frank Lloyd Wright's Unity Church in Oak Park, Illinois (1906).

The survey of Missouri's historic sites is based on their selection as they relate to theme studies in Missouri history as outlined in "Missouri's State Historic Preservation Plan". The Pulaski County Courthouse, therefore, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an example of the themes of "Architecture" and "Political Affairs".

FOOTNOTES

1. This building shows similarities in design to the Church of Sant' Ambrogio in Milan, Italy (11th-12th century) and other similar monuments of Italian Romanesque architecture.


5. Ibid.


7. Ibid., p. 36.

8. History of Laclede, Camden, etc., p. 102.

10. Pulaski County Court Record, April 1, 1872.
11. Ibid.
14. Pulaski County Court Record, June 20, 1903.
15. Pulaski County Court Record, July 25, 1903.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0.15 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME: Waynesville, Mo.

UTM REFERENCES

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
A 15 570 305 4186945
B
C
D
E
F
G
H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Being nominated is the approximate south half of the courthouse square beginning at the southwest corner and proceeding north 60 feet to a sidewalk dividing the courthouse from three buildings (not being nominated)

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-666), 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.

DIRECTORY

Launa Jones
Lake of the Ozarks Council of Local Governments
Box 786
Camdenton, Missouri 65020

Estate Historic Preservation Officer
Director, Department of Natural Resources and State Historic Preservation Officer

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION
3. "H.H. Hohenschild, 65, President of Former Night and Day Bank Dies", obituary from the files of the Missouri Historical Society, Jefferson Memorial, St. Louis, Missouri.


7. Pulaski County Court Records, April 1, 1872; June 20 and July 25, 1903.

directly to the north, proceeding east at this point 110 feet to the sidewalk fronting Linn Street, proceeding south from this point 60 feet to the southeast corner of the courthouse square, proceeding 110 feet west to the point of beginning.
2. James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations-Survey
   and State Contact Person
   Department of Natural Resources
   Office of Historic Preservation
   P.O. Box 176
   Jefferson City
   January 23, 1979
   314/751-4096
   Missouri 65102
Lake of the Ozarks Council of Local Governments
P.O. Box 786
Camdenton, Mo. 65020

Credit: Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Division of Parks & Historic Preservation
Photograph: Tom Chesser
August 1978

PULASKI COUNTY COURTHOUSE
Waynesville, Missouri

Aerial view: buildings to left (north) of courthouse on square are not within boundary of nomination.
PULASKI COUNTY COURTHOUSE
Waynesville, Missouri
Photographer: Tom Chesser
August 1978
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Primary (south) facade; view looking north
PULASKI COUNTY COURTHOUSE
Waynesville, Missouri
Photographer: Tom Chesser
August 1978
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West facade: view looking northeast.
PULASKI COUNTY COURTHOUSE
Waynesville, Missouri
Photographer: Tom Chester
August 1970
Lake of the Ozarks Council of Local Governments
P.O. Box 786
Camdenton, Mo. 65020

North facade (left), west facade (right); view looking southeast.
PULASKI COUNTY COURTHOUSE #5
Waynesville, Missouri
Photographer: Tom Chesser
August 1978
Lake of the Ozarks Council of Local Governments
P.O. Box 786
Camdenton, Mo. 65020

Hood over east entrance; view looking northwest.
PULASKI COUNTY COURTHOUSE
Waynesville, Missouri
Photographer: Tom Chesser
August 1978
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P.O. Box 786
Camdenton, Mo. 65020

View looking northeast: Detail of in-and-out bond brick work of projecting bay of west facade.
PULASKI COUNTY COURTHOUSE
Waynesville, Missouri
Photographer: Tom Chesser
August 1978
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Interior view looking north: 2nd floor
circuit court room.
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Interior view looking southeast: detail of built-in desk adjoining judge's bench in Circuit Court room.
PULASKI COUNTY COURTHOUSE #9
Waynesville, Missouri
Photographer: Tom Chesser
August 1978
Lake of the Ozarks Council of Local Governments
P.O. Box 786
Camdenton, Mo. 65020

Interior view: detail of main staircase.
EXTRA PHOTOS