

426

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Clay County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON
Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Main Street

CITY, TOWN
Hayesville

STATE
North Carolina

VICINITY OF
11th

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
11th

COUNTY
Clay

CODE
37

CODE
043

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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Clay County Commissioners

STREET & NUMBER
Courthouse, Main Street

CITY, TOWN
Hayesville

STATE
North Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Clay County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
Main Street

CITY, TOWN
Hayesville

STATE
North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Standing on a pleasantly shaded square with the town's store buildings grouped closely around, the Clay County Courthouse is a vernacular Italianate Victorian institutional building. The two-story brick structure features a cross-gable roof and a front central tower. The brick bond is one-to-seven common bond; a stuccoed, scored water table reaches to the base of the first-story windows. The main entrance is through the tower which is located in the center of the top of the T. The main facade is five bays wide. It consists of a double door surmounted by a three-light fanlight. The double door has two raised panels in each leaf; the lower panel is a small square surrounded by a heavy molded strip with small ornamental blocks in each corner. The upper panel is similar but taller, with an arched head.

The tower, square in section, projects from the main building about half of its width. The flanking bays at the first level are left blank with segmental-arched windows at the end bays. The second story has five segmental-arched windows with four-over-two sash. The first floor has two-over-two sash. The division between the first and second floors is marked by a brick band laid in a sawtooth fashion, surmounted by a brick dentil course. The second-story windows are considerable taller than the first, creating a curious relationship between the stories.

The tower, of brick at the first two levels, is of wood above the peak of the gable. Each gable contains a large circular, louvered ventilator. The first stage of the wooden tower has scalloped shingles and a pent roof with overhang ornamented by simple brackets with pendants. A second, taller stage with paired pilasters at each corner supports a second pent roof similar to the lower but with the brackets closely spaced. There is a large vertical vent with louvers in each face of the second stage. The tower is capped by a sharply pitched, cross-gable roof with a circular vent in each gable. The cross-gable roof of the building has a wide, molded cornice overhang and wide plain frieze. The overhang is supported by closely spaced brackets with a scallop design, a pierced wooden circle in the center of the cross brace, and acorn pendants. The ornamentation carries around the building, and fenestration is balanced with two bays on each end of the T crosspiece and the T base being five bays long and three wide.

The building has been extensively remodeled inside but the original floor plan remains primarily intact. A center hall runs the length of the building with offices flanking the hall. The second floor, reached by stairs near the front entrance, is reserved for the courtroom. Floors, walls and ceilings have been re-covered, but interior doors survive. The interior doors consist of four panels, two long raised panels above and two small rectangular raised panels below; both have heavy moldings.

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 1888 BUILDER/ARCHITECT W. G. Bulgin

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Clay County Courthouse, a prominent landmark of the small, mountain county seat town of Hayesville, is a vernacular Italianate Victorian brick structure whose exterior appearance remains essentially unchanged. Built during the years 1887-1888, it is of considerable local architectural and historical significance and still in use as a courthouse.

Clay County was formed in 1861 from Cherokee County and was named in honor of Henry Clay. Commissioners were directed to hold their first meeting in the Methodist Church near Fort Hembree while special commissioners were named to select a site for the courthouse and lay out a town by the name of Hayesville. The town was named in honor of George W. Hayes, a member of the General Assembly who was instrumental in the formation of the county.

The first courthouse was burned in 1870, and it appears that a makeshift building was constructed on the site following the fire. The Clay County Board of Commissioner's minutes of November 2, 1885, "ordered that a contract be made for renting the lower part of the Masonic Hall for county offices at \$7.00 per month; after the window sash are put in, and a good stove furnished. And the county officers be authorized as soon as practicable to remove the records, documents, etc., from the courthouse to said hall." Lodge minutes of November 21, 1885, "ordered that county pay to Lodge \$5.00 per term of court for use of Hall and lower room be hired to County Commissioners for term of one year \$1.00 per month." It is also recorded that court was held during 1887 to 1889 in the Presbyterian Church.

Minutes of the Board of Commissioners for the period July 18, 1887, through November 5, 1889, give detailed information concerning the construction of the courthouse. The board was composed of J. M. Crawford, Chairman, with J. H. Penland and A. B. Brown, members. On July 18, 1887, there was a called meeting of the board to levy a special tax of twenty-two cents on every \$100.00 worth of property and sixty-six cents on each voter for the construction of the courthouse. It was "ordered by the Board that G. W. Sanderson go to Brevard in the county of Transylvania and procure plan and specifications of the courthouse in said county together with such additional information as will aid the commissioners of Clay County in the erection of the courthouse." On August 1, 1887, G. W. Sanderson reported to the board that he had been to Transylvania County to examine the courthouse, but had been unable to procure specifications and costs as requested. The board then ordered that J. H. Penland, a member of the board, to go to Macon County and have plans and specifications for the courthouse drawn. The commissioners minutes of September 5, 1887, show that a contract was issued to J. A. Slagle "to remove the old courthouse for \$5.00 and all old materials."

On August 15, 1887, there was a called meeting of the board to review plans and specifications of the Macon County Courthouse as drawn by G. W. Bulgin. (The now-gone Macon County Courthouse was similar in its use of brick, bracket cornice, and arched windows, but

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different in detail and plan.) The plans and specifications were adopted by the board with five pages of specifications containing detailed descriptions covering the dimensions, divisions, excavation, foundation, position of walls, materials to be used, roofing, cornicing, doors, windows, stairways, plastering, painting, outside steps and general remarks as to quality of materials to be used, thorough workmanship, and final inspection. The board ordered the Clerk of Court to advertise for sealed bids for construction of the courthouse until September 15, 1887, with specifications that the contractor selected would be given until October 1, 1888, to complete the building. J. P. Cherry was allowed \$15.00 to pay Mr. Bulgin for plans and specifications for the courthouse.

The board met on September 15, 1887, for the purpose of opening bids and awarding a contract for erection of the courthouse; the contract was awarded to J. S. Anderson for \$7,240.00 W. G. Bulgin was appointed architect and inspector of materials and work on the courthouse.

On November 4, 1889, it was recorded that J. S. Anderson reported his contract completed and ready for inspection. The board agreed that each commissioner would choose some suitable citizen of the county to meet the next day at 9:00 A.M. to inspect the courthouse and make settlement as to any extra work done. The construction and extra costs of work (\$559.50) were approved, making the total cost \$7,799.50. The make-up of the board was changed by the death of J. H. Penland (September 1889) and his replacement by T. M. Hancock on October 7, 1889.

Twenty-one years later the original floor had to be replaced (because, it is speculated, of poor ventilation) and the contract was awarded on February 10, 1912, to T. C. Lovin and George T. Lane. They replaced the first floor with concrete.

The building continues to serve Clay County as courthouse and office building. It occupies a central and prominent position in Hayesville, a small, neat mountain community.

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Padgett, Gay. The Mountain News, Thursday, May 1, 1975. Hayesville, North Carolina.
Powell, William S. The North Carolina Gazetteer. Chapel Hill: The University of
North Carolina Press, 1968.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clay County Records, Clay County Courthouse, Hayesville, North Carolina (Subgroups: Minute Docket, Clay County Commissioners Meetings).
 Clay County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Minute Docket, Clay County Commissioners Meetings).
 Corbett, David Leroy. The Formation of the North Carolina Counties, 1663-1943. Raleigh: State Department of Archives and History, 1950.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	24,25,4,0	3,8,8,1,9,6,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

State Plane Coordinate System 17/155,020/169,640

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

Research and architectural description by Charles Greer Suttlemyre, Jr., survey specialist.
 ORGANIZATION _____ DATE _____

Division of Archives and History
 STREET & NUMBER _____ TELEPHONE _____

109 East Jones Street
 CITY OR TOWN _____ STATE _____

Raleigh _____ North Carolina

12 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 89-665), 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 *David Lee Boyd*

TITLE Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 22 August 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
	DATE
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	
ATTEST:	DATE
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

