

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina	
COUNTY: Orange	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Old Orange County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
106 East King Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Hillsborough (4th Congressional District)

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37	COUNTY: Orange	CODE 135
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3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Orange County

STREET AND NUMBER:
Orange County Courthouse, Margaret Lane

CITY OR TOWN: Hillsborough	STATE: North Carolina	CODE 37
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Orange County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Margaret Lane

CITY OR TOWN: Hillsborough	STATE: North Carolina	CODE 37
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1959 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
East Capitol and Independence Avenue, S. E.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D. C.	CODE 11
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input 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

The old Orange County Courthouse is a two-story, temple-form structure built of brick laid in Flemish bond with the bays separated by flat pilaster strips.

The north (front) facade features a well-proportioned Doric tetrastyle pedimented portico. The large columns support a full entablature which carries around the building. The tympanum is unadorned. Beneath the portico is a central entrance containing a double door. It is surmounted by a fanlight set in a semicircular brick arch with a granite keystone. On the second floor level there are three large windows.

The east and west sides are five bays long with interior chimneys rising from the south corners and between the second and third bays on either side.

The south facade is also pedimented. In the tympanum is an oval oculus containing a vent pierced with an unusual geometric design.

All windows have twelve-over-twelve sash and feature flat arches with granite keystones and sills.

Above the north portico is a clock tower which rises in two distinct stages. The first section, square in plan, with a clock face on each side, is of wood fashioned to resemble rusticated stone. The upper section is octagonal and features a narrow window on each face separated by stylized pilasters which support a bold entablature. The tower is topped by a semi-spherical dome.

On the first floor is an entrance hall across the front with a stair at either end, which rise to a common landing above the main entrance and ascend in a single transverse flight to the second floor. The landing is supported by a pair of chamfered posts on square pedestals. A central hall runs from the stair hall straight through the building with rooms on either side. There is a fireplace in each room on the right of the hall and in the south room on the left. The mantels are all of the same basic design, consisting of simple molded shelves resting on heavy Doric pilasters. All rooms feature simple Classic Revival trim with the heavy moldings of the door and window cases adorned with corner blocks.

The second floor consists of a large courtroom with the jury room and judge's chamber on either side of the stair at the north end. To the right of the entrance to the courtroom is a narrow stair which ascends in several flights to the clock tower. Most of the original interiors were replaced during a late nineteenth century renovation. The courtroom, however, retains many of its original forensic appointments. Since 1957 it has served as a museum.

The Orange County Historical Museum contains exhibits illustrating the first hundred years of Orange County history. Three recent murals on the north wall by Kenneth Whitsett depict significant events in Hillsborough from 1752 to 1788.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1845

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

The old Orange County Courthouse was built in 1845 on public lot number 1, the site of several earlier governmental structures in Hillsborough. It was constructed by Captain John Berry, a native of the town. A prominent local politician and builder of the period, Berry also constructed other buildings in Hillsborough, including the Methodist Church. He remodeled the Burwell School building and built Eagle Lodge, No. 19, A. F. & A. M., which was designed by William Nichols, state architect. Elsewhere he constructed Smith Hall (Playmaker's Theatre) from the designs of A. J. Davis on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and built Wait Hall (destroyed), the first building at Wake Forest College.

Berry's courthouse served as the seat of Orange County's government until 1954 when a new building was completed. The old courthouse now contains the offices of the Orange County Board of Education and the Orange County Historical Museum.

The architectural importance of the old Orange County Courthouse is clear. Thomas Waterman called it "a singularly felicitous example of American Classic Revival architecture," while Talbot Hamlin deemed it "one of the best of its type anywhere in the country. Its four-column, widely spaced Greek Doric portico, its unusually forceful and well-designed cupola, and its quiet brick walls are almost perfect of their kind."

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hamilin, Talbot. Greek Revival Architecture in America. New York, New York: Dover Publications, 1944.

Lefler, Hugh T., and Paul Wager (eds.). Orange County: 1752-1952. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: The Orange Printshop, 1953.

Orange County Records, Orange County Courthouse, Hillsborough, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroup: Deeds).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	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	0	'	"	0	'	"	36	04	29
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	79	05	57
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"			
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: One half acre.

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Survey and Planning Unit, John Wells, Supervisor

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History DATE: March 23, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 H. G. Jones

Title Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date March 23, 1971

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
North Carolina	
COUNTY	
Orange	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

9.

Orange County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh,
North Carolina. (Subgroup: Deeds).

Waterman, Thomas Tileston. The Early Architecture of North Carolina.
Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1947.

