

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
Monroe City Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
102 West Jefferson Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Monroe (Eighth Congressional District)

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37	COUNTY: Union	CODE 179
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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 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	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 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) _____ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
City of Monroe

STREET AND NUMBER:
102 West Jefferson Street

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

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Union County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

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

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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DATE

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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

The Monroe City Hall, a three-story building of brick laid in Flemish bond, has a gable roof and interior end chimneys. The front (south) facade is three bays wide with a slightly projecting one-bay pedimented center pavilion. The pediment is formed by a fine brick cornice which carries around the entire building. Each bay on the ground level contains an entrance. The west entrance is surmounted by a large single-pane transom; the central entrance features sidelights as well as a transom; the east entrance is contained in a large segmental arch which, considerably wider than the other entrances, may have been designed to accommodate a vehicle. The windows at the second and third levels have stone sills and molded architraves with plain cornerblocks. Each contains modern two-over-two sash. There is slight but effective diminution of fenestration.

The east and west ends are pedimented also. A two-story twentieth century wing has enclosed all but the top story of the west side. The three-bay rear facade originally had three entrances on the ground level. The central doorway and the east window on the second level have been bricked up, and a two-story brick addition has been made to the west bay. The windows lighting the third story contain the early six-over-six sash.

On the interior, the City Hall presents a center-hall plan two rooms deep. A closed string stair with a molded rail and square newel rises from the east side of the hall. Some twentieth century alterations have been made including a toilet at the rear of the hall. All the mantels in the first story have been removed and the fireplace openings plastered over. The rooms are quite plain with plaster walls above heavy baseboards. The doors have rooded architraves with plain cornerblocks. The second floor, similar in plan to the first, was formerly used as the sheriff's living quarters. It features slightly more elaborate trim than the first floor. The windows in the hall are framed by paneled surrounds with cornerblocks adorned with roundels. In the southwest room is the only remaining mantel in the building. It is of conventional Greek Revival design with heavy fluted pilasters supporting a flat-panel frieze and end blocks with a Greek key motif. An enclosed stair, which rises from the second floor hall through the east room to the third floor, appears to be a replacement for an earlier stair. The third floor, which originally served as the jail, contains little of its original finish.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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)

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 Monroe City Hall, begun in 1847 and completed in 1848, was originally built as the public jail. The old jail it replaced is reported to have been a log structure which stood on Beasley Street. The January, 1847, term of Union County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions ordered "that David A. Covington, Aaron Little, Robert G. Howard and Eli Stewart with William Hamilton be appointed commissioners" to draw up plans for a public jail to be located in Union County.

When the court met again in April, 1847, it was decided "that the large fine imposed upon John Medlin at the Superior Court in Cabarrus County in February last be set apart and appropriated for the building of a public jail for the County of Union."

John Medlin and his son-in-law, Clemont B. Curlee, had been charged with the murder of a runaway slave belonging to Medlin. Because feelings were running high in Union County, the case was tried in Cabarrus County. Curlee was found innocent, but Medlin was found guilty of "felony and manslaughter." To avoid the death penalty, Medlin pleaded and was adjudged to be "entitled to the benefit of his clergy." (Benefit of clergy, which under English common law protected the clergy from capital punishment, was extended in some cases to any convicted person who could read. It was abolished in Federal courts in 1790 and in North Carolina in 1855.) Medlin was fined \$3,000 and ordered to pay the court costs which were \$390.37.

With a large part of the money needed for the building thus provided, the court further instructed the committee to find a contractor who would agree to erect the building according to the plans submitted by the committee for \$6,500.

The building, constructed on the north side of the public square, served as Union County's jail until a new one was built in 1892. The old jail was put up for public auction on January 2, 1893, with A. M. Crowell submitting the high bid of \$2,825. But since Crowell was unable to comply with the terms of his bid, the building was sold to the town of Monroe for \$2,880.80. The building has been used to house Monroe city government since 1893.

The Monroe City Hall, possibly the oldest building in Monroe, is interesting architecturally as well as historically. A fine example of North Carolina antebellum civic architecture, it has been used continuously as a public building since its construction.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cabarrus County Records, Cabarrus County Courthouse, Concord, North Carolina.
Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroups: Court Records).

Cabarrus County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh,
North Carolina. (Subgroups: Court Records).

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 . "	0 . "		34 . 58 . 56"	80 . 33 . 01"	
NE	0 . "	0 . "				
SE	0 . "	0 . "				
SW	0 . "	0 . "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: $\frac{1}{2}$ 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 Staff, John B. Wells, III, Supervisor

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History

DATE: April 9, 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: April 9, 1971

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

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(Continuation Sheet)

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

(Number all entries)

9.

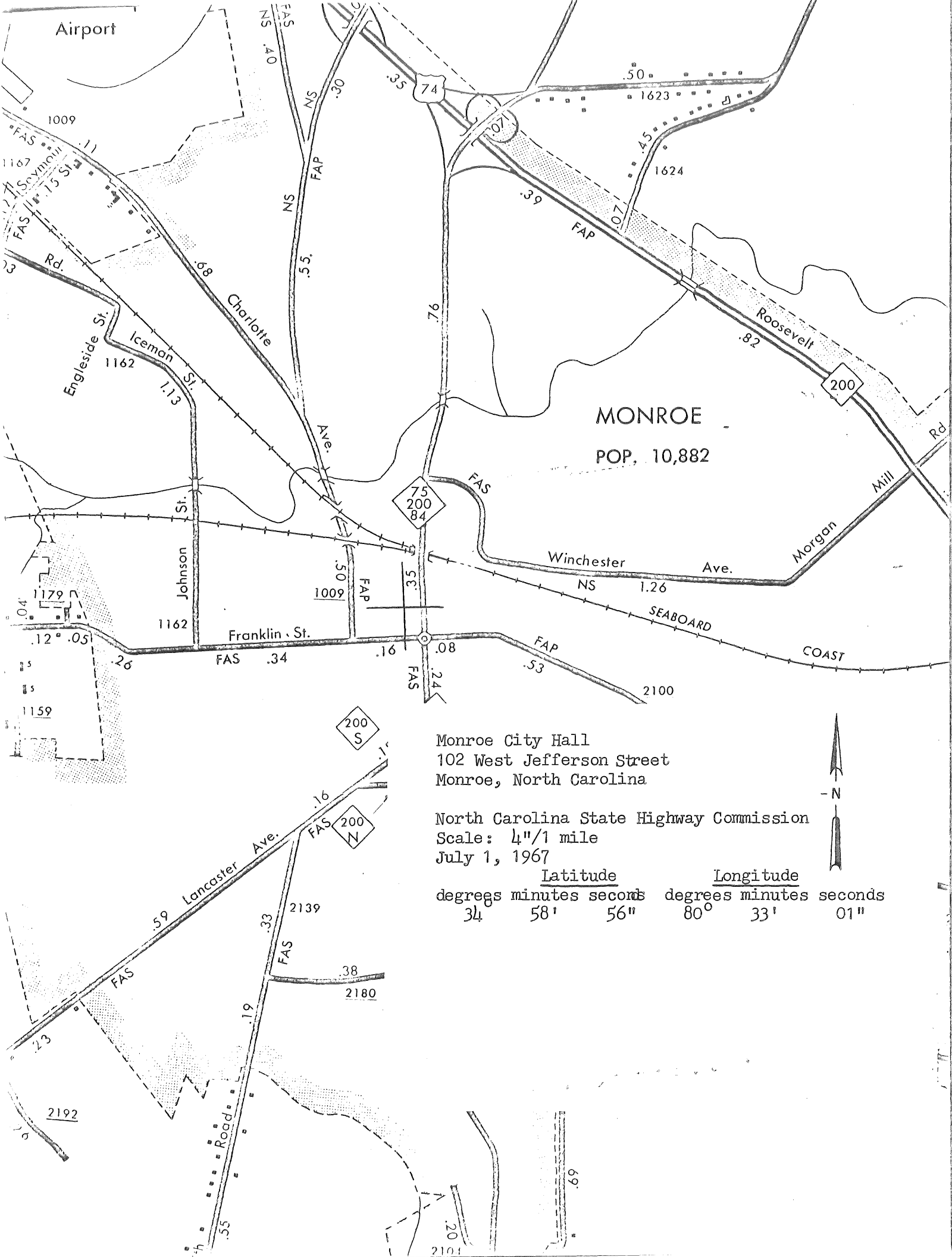
Federal Writers Project of the Federal Works Agency. North Carolina: A Guide to the Old North State. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1939.

Funderburk, Cobble. "How Union County Got Its Jail," The State, October 31, 1936, Vol 4, #22. Carl Goerch, editor.

Lefler, Hugh Talmage, and Newsome, Albert Ray. North Carolina: The History of a Southern State. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1963.

Union County Records, Union County Courthouse, Monroe, North Carolina. Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroup: Court Records).

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

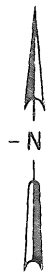


MONROE
POP. 10,882

Monroe City Hall
102 West Jefferson Street
Monroe, North Carolina

North Carolina State Highway Commission
Scale: 4"/1 mile
July 1, 1967

Latitude			Longitude		
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
34	58'	56"	80°	33'	01"





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Hotel