NPS Form 10-900
OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1082

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Humphreys County Courthouse
Other names/site number: _____
Name of related multiple property listing:

_____

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

2. Location

Street & number: _____
City or town: Belzoni_____ State: _____MS_____ County: _Humphreys_____
Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this __X_ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property __X_ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___national ___statewide _X__local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

__X__A ___B __X_C ___D

Nov. 25, 2013

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: **Date**

Title : **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

for Edson H. Beall 1.14.15

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:	☐
Public – Local	X
Public – State	☐
Public – Federal	☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)	X
District	☐
Site	☐
Structure	☐
Object	☐

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
1		objects
4	1	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _____

6. Function or Use
Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
GOVERNMENT/courthouse
GOVERNMENT/correctional facility
RECREATION AND CULTURE/monument

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
GOVERNMENT/courthouse
GOVERNMENT/correctional facility
RECREATION AND CULTURE/monument

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY REVIVALS/Beaux Arts

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick, Concrete, Terra Cotta

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Humphreys County Courthouse is T-shaped masonry and steel frame building with a flat roof. The building is three stories on a raised ground floor. The building is located on the south edge of Belzoni, Mississippi, a small city located 75 miles northwest of Jackson. The courthouse has a grassy lawn on the north and west sides. A memorial honoring Humphreys County veterans is set in the northwest corner of the lawn. The Old Humphreys County Jail and the new Humphreys County Jail are located to the south between the courthouse and the Yazoo River.

Narrative Description

The Humphreys County Courthouse is a T-shaped reinforced concrete building. The roof over the two-story courtroom is supported by steel trusses. The building is three stories tall with a raised basement and flat roof. The building is located on the southern edge of downtown Belzoni, Mississippi, on the north bank of the Yazoo River. The building is located near the corner of Castleman Street and Hayden Street, with a large grass lawn on the north and west sides. A paved parking lot is set to the east, separating the courthouse from the First Methodist Church.

Exterior

The primary elevation is north, facing Castleman Street. A wide sidewalk with a rectangular fountain runs between the street and the building. Wide concrete stairs set between knee-walls with cast-stone caps are centered. The stairs rise to a platform on the first floor. An Indiana limestone water table is found on all elevations. Three two-panel windows flank the stairs on the ground floor.

The upper floors are clad in yellow brick with cast-stone accents. There are two-story brick panels offset to the east and the west. The panels have a cast-stone frame capped with a cartouche featuring an eagle with its wings extended and carrying arrows in its talons. Between the panels the exterior wall of the first and second floors are protected by a shallow porch supported by eight fluted cast-stone columns with Doric capitals. The first floor is seven bays. Two metal frame two-panel windows with transoms flank three entrances. The windows have cast-stone sills. The entrances have double-leaf bronze doors with glazed panels and transoms. Each door is set into a cast-stone surround with pediments. The pilasters and architrave are decorated with roundels, floral motifs and a Greek key fretwork. The second floor has seven bays, all windows as described above. The columns visually support an entablature that runs the length of the north elevation and around to the east and west elevations as well. The entablature has a broad frieze is inscribed with "HVMPHREYS COVNTY COVRT HOVSE." A course of terra cotta dentil molding and a broad cornice complete the architrave.

The third floor is slightly recessed on the north, east and west elevations. On the north, there are seven bays with metal-frame two-panel windows without transoms. A terra cotta cornice with dentils surmounted by anthemions extends across the north elevation and around to the east and west elevations as well.

On the west, the courthouse is set back from the street with a grassy lawn. The west elevation of the cross-wing of the T-shape has three bays. On the ground floor a centered entrance holds double-leaf glazed doors with transoms and sidelights. Projecting concrete knee walls flank the entrance. There a single two-panel window to the north, while a blind window opening is set to the south. the entrance. The upper floors are brick with terra cotta entablature visually dividing the second floor from the recessed third floor. The first floor is three bays with two-panel windows with transoms. The second floor windows are the same, while the third floor windows lack transoms. A small single-pane window is set between the center and south windows on the second floor with a similar small window offset to the north on the third floor. The west elevation of the south-projecting wing is clad in brick without the cast-stone decorative elements seen on the cross wing. The brickwork on the ground floor resembles blocks, even showing quoins at the corners. A thin cast-stone course visually separates the ground floor from the first floor, while a brick course visually separates the first floor from the second floor. Each floor is three bay with the first and second floor featuring two-panel windows with transoms while the ground floor and third floor windows are two-panel without transoms.

On the south, the courthouse faces the old county jail and the new county jail. The south elevation decorative brickwork and belt courses are the same as described above. The south elevation of the west-facing cross wing has two windows on the ground floor, three windows on the first floor and two windows flanking a blind opening on the second and third floor. The south elevation east elevation of the east-facing wing of the cross wing is similar, except the first floor windows also flank a blind opening. The south elevation of the south facing wing has three bays on all floors. On the ground floor, a centered entrance is flanked by brick knee walls with a cast-stone cap. The doors are double-leaf metal frame doors with sidelights and transoms. A window is set the west, while a barred door opens to a holding cell to the east. The first floor has three windows. The second and third floors have tall brick-framed blind windows, with a two-pane window with a transom is set into the center frame.

From the east, the courthouse faces a parking lot and the First Methodist Church. The east elevation is similar to the west elevation with a few distinct differences. The ground floor of the south-projecting wing has one small window and double-leaf metal doors offset to the south. The main difference is on the ground floor of the east elevation of the cross wing where the entrance has windows to both sides.

Interior

The ground floor is accessed through doors on the east, south and west elevations. There is T-shaped hall. The floor is terrazzo with a ten-inch baseboard. The walls are concrete painted white. There is a wood chair rail and interior doors and windows have wood surrounds. Most of the doors are original with a single light over two-panels. The ceiling has an acoustical spray material. The ground floor has offices, the Youth Court, men's and women's restrooms, a vault and a mechanical room. Stairways to the upper floors are located on the southeast and southwest corners. An elevator is in the south wall of the east-west hallway.

The first floor is accessed only through the front doors. The doors open to a formal lobby which has terrazzo floors and Tennessee marble wainscot. The upper walls are plastered and the ceiling is coved with decorative plaster inlays. Two Tuscan columns visually divide the lobby from the interior T-shaped hallway.

The floors and walls of the hallway have the same finishes. There is a plaster crown molding with decorative work. The interior wood doors are mostly original with a single light over two panels. The doors are inset in shouldered wood surrounds. Stairways to the upper floors are located in the southeast and southwest corners of the first floor. An elevator is in the south wall of the east-west hallway.

The south hallway leads to the Chancery Clerks office to the east and the Board of Supervisors meeting room to the west. The interior of the Chancery Clerks office has a dropped ceiling, paneled walls and a carpet. A large vault, manufactured by the Hall's Safe Company of Cincinnati, Ohio, protects the court records. The Board of Supervisors meets in a room to the west. The Board Room has an acoustical tile ceiling, plaster walls and carpet. Original features include a wood base board and chair rail.

The east hallway leads to the Tax Collector's office. There is a wood service counter that separates the public space from the employee work space. The walls are plastered, but there are some wood partitions that create offices. The ceiling is dropped acoustical tiles. The floor of the public space is terrazzo while the employee work space is carpeted.

The west hallway leads to the Circuit Clerk's office. A wood service desk divides the public space from the work area. The walls have paneling, the ceiling is dropped acoustical tiles and the floor is carpeted. A large vault in the northwest corner secures the court records. Private offices have the same finishes as the main room.

The second floor has U-shaped hallway, with the stairwells located in the uprights and an-east west hallway serving as the base. Double-pile wood doors with a frosted glazed-pane set over two panels open off the short halls to the courtroom. There is a single-light transom over the doors, all set in in a wood surround.

The floors of the second floor halls are terrazzo. The ceiling is plaster and walls are plaster with a wood chair rail and marble baseboards. Offices and witness rooms occupy the east and west wings. There are offices, a jury room, and interview rooms along the north wall. Some of the rooms along the north wall have two internal windows composed of a single glazed pane flanking a wooden door with a glazed panel over two-panels. The offices and jury room have wood floors with wood baseboards, and some offices have wood paneling. Two single-leaf half-glazed wood doors with transoms are set into the south wall and provide access to the courtroom. All the interior doors and windows have wood surrounds. Holding cells are located in the northeast and northwest corners of the hall. Wood partition walls divide the hallway near the middle of the east-west axis.

The courtroom is a two-story space that occupies the south-facing wing. The walls are paneled and the ceiling is dropped. The floor is composite tile. The bench, witness box, jury box and counsel tables are on a raised dais ion the north side of the room. The bench is set in a pedimented surround. The single-leaf doors from the hall are set in shouldered surrounds. A rail with a gentle arc separates the dais from the spectator seating. The seats are wood theater seats with iron frames. They are set in a gentle arc in three sections with two aisles.

The south wall is paneled. The upper wall projects over a portion of the space, indicating the presence of a balcony. The balcony has been closed. Double-leaf louvered doors are centered in the south wall of the main level. The doors open to a narrow area with a south facing window and two narrow stairs rising to the east and west. The stairs access the balcony area, which is now occupied by mechanical units. A tiered seating area with some theater seats remains. The original plaster crown molding remains in place in some areas, but it is seriously deteriorated.

The third floor has a U-shaped hall. The east and west wings have offices. There are offices and storage rooms along the north wall as well. The hall has plastered ceilings and walls, with a wood chair rail and marble baseboard. The offices have plaster walls and ceilings, hard wood floors and wood baseboards.

Old Humphreys County Jail

The Old Humphreys County Jail is located immediately south of the courthouse. The jail is two-stories with a flat room. It was built contemporaneously with the courthouse and is masonry with a buff brick exterior. The primary elevation is north. There is slightly projecting block on the west which was the jailer's apartment. A cast-stone capstone and beltcourse extends across the entire elevation, while a similar beltcourse separates the first and second floors only of the projecting block. That block has two bays with 8/1 double-hung windows with cast-stone lintels. A brick and cast-stone porte cochere extend from the west face. The east block has six bays with barred windows. The easternmost window on the ground floor is filled with brick. A chimney is offset to the west. A wood awning is a later addition.

The west elevation has three bays. The cast-stone capstone and beltcourses are present. On the second floor, there are paired eight-one double hung windows flanking a single-leaf wood door with 8/1 glazed panels over a single panel that opens onto the top of the porte cochere. On the ground floor paired windows are offset to the north, with two single windows offset to the south. A single-leaf wood door, sheltered by the porte cochere, provides access.

The south elevation has the same cast-stone capstone and beltcourses, with the slightly projecting west block. The second floor of the west block has one set of paired windows and a smaller 8/1 window with two single windows on the first floor. The east block six barred windows on the second floor and four windows on the first floor. A single-leaf wood door with four glazed panes over a single wood panel is offset to the west.

On the east elevation, there is no belt course. There are two barred windows on the second floor and a single barred window on the ground floor.

Cells manufactured by the Pauly Jail Building Company of St. Louis, MO remain in the building. However, the interior has not been in use since the early 1990s some time and is in poor condition.

A one-story brick kitchen building with a flat roof and brick walls is set immediately south of the old jail building. It is currently in use for storage and machine shed.

The Old Humphreys County Jail and the Kitchen are contributing resources.

New Humphreys County Jail

Constructed in 1993, the new Humphreys County Jail is a one-story building with a gable roof. It is located south of the courthouse and to the east of the old jail. The exterior walls are brick and the roof has asphalt shingles. A large fenced exercise area is located on the east side of the building.

The new Humphreys County Jail is noncontributing.

War Memorial Monument

The Humphreys County War Memorial Monument is located in the northwest corner of the courthouse lawn. The marble monument is set on a northeast-southwest axis and is composed of three figures on pedestals. A stele with a classical entablature rises in the center and is surmounted by an eagle with spread wings. The figure to the left is a woman, representing the mothers of veterans. A plaque below the statue is engraved with the words "To the beloved women of the Confederacy and the World War." The center figure is a WWI doughboy with the engraved plaque reading "Humphreys County Tribute to Her Sons of the World War." The figure to the right is a Civil War soldier with the engraving reading " To the men who wore the grey and were faithful to the end 1861-1865." A metal plaque with names of Humphreys County servicemen killed or missing in World War II rests at the base of the monument.

The War Memorial Monument is contributing.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

[X] A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

[ ] B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

[X] C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

[ ] D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1922; 1922-1962

Significant Dates
1924

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder
Kramer & Lindsley, architect
Burkes, J.V. and R.T., contractors

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Humphreys County Courthouse in Belzoni, Mississippi is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places for local significance under Criterion A for association with Politics/Government as the seat of county government since 1922. The Humphreys County Courthouse is also eligible for local significance under Criterion C for association with Architecture as the finest local example of a Beaux Arts style public building.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The territory that today encompasses Humphreys County is located in the southeast corner of the Mississippi Delta, a rich alluvial plain drained by the Mississippi River and its tributaries including the Yazoo River. At the time of European contact the area was occupied by the Choctaw. The area was opened to American settlement following the Treaty of Doak's Stand in October 1820 when the Choctaw ceded a large territory to the United States.

The Mississippi legislature divided the territory into counties. The area known today as Humphreys County was once part of Washington, Yazoo, Holmes, Sunflower, and Sharkey Counties. Efforts to create a separate county began as early as 1870 when Colonel James R. Powell, the owner of Daybreak Plantation, proposed creating Powell County with Burtonia as its county seat.[1] In 1892, Dr. R. V. Powers, a Silver City planter, proposed Alluvia County, with Palmetto Home as the county the seat.[2]

More sustained efforts began in 1908 but were rejected by the legislature. Finally in 1918, supporters of the new county were successful with the state Senate passing a bill creating the county on March 12. The Mississippi House passed the bill on March 27 and Governor Theodore Bilbo signed the legislation. The legislation created a new county, named for Mississippi Governor Benjamin Grubbs Humphreys, by taking 155 square mile from Washington County, 143 square miles from Yazoo County, 74 square miles from Holmes County, 22 square miles from Sunflower County and 18 square miles from Sharkey County[3]. Yazoo County officials objected to losing their territory but their efforts to prevent the loss were finally rejected by the Mississippi Supreme Court on January 29, 1919.[4]

The county seat, Belzoni, takes its name from a plantation owned by Alvarez Fisk of Natchez. The federal government issued a land grant to Fisk in 1832.[5] Fisk named the plantation after Giovanni Battista Belzoni, an Italian adventurer, author and archaeologist.[6] The first settlement began in 1878 when J.S. Bowles opened a store, in an area known as Burtonia Landing. When fire destroyed most of Burtonia Landing in 1888, the settlement relocated upriver a short distance. Saloons grew up to serve the river traffic in what was then called "Greasy Row." However, the town continued to grow and received a charter in 1895.[7]

County officials selected a five acre site on the south edge of Belzoni for the erection of a new courthouse and jail. Jackson architects Kramer & Lindsley drew the plans and specifications for

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[1] Source Material for Mississippi History, Humphreys County, Formation. Series 447, Box 10714. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, p. 1.
[2] Source Material, p. 1.
[3] Source Material, p. 2-3.
[4] Mrs. Jon Cerame, *From Greasy Row to Catfish Capital.* (Oxford: Rebel Press, Inc., 1978), 103.
[5] Cerame, 24.
[6] Cerame, 34.
[7] Cerame, 58.

the buildings. The Board of Supervisors met on the first Monday of February 1921 and accepted the plan.[8] Work progressed rapidly, with *The Belzoni Banner* providing periodic updates:

> June 9, 1921: Work on these two buildings is being pushed rapidly, and the growth can be seen daily. Forms for running the concrete pillars and first floor have been set. Brick work started on the courthouse on Monday…brick work on the jail is up a considerable distance…some of the lower cells placed this week.
>
> July 14, 1921: The cornerstone of the new courthouse will be laid next Thursday…The large stone pillars arrived this week.
>
> August 18, 1921: The jail will be ready for boarders on or about the first of September, and is a dandy place to keep the county's malcontents.
>
> September 8, 1921: The county jail, one of the handsomest and best looking jails, and by far the best has been completed...Mr. Linsdley, one of the architects, says he thinks the courthouse will be completed by February of 1922.

However, the rapid progress almost turned to disaster in October 1921. The concrete floor of the courtroom balcony collapsed, falling fifty-feet to the ground floor. Four workmen were on the balcony when it fell, suffering some significant injuries. All the workers had scrapes and lacerations, with one breaking a leg, another breaking several ribs.[9] Despite the setback, work continued to progress. The floor collapse caused only minor damage to the floors below.[10]

Work on the jail finished by November 1921, when jailer M. L. McFate and his wife moved into their quarters. The county's nine prisoners soon occupied the jail, which was described

> …a model of neatness, being the most beautiful jail in the state, and its furnishings are modern and right up-to-date, and while the cells and floors are fire and tool proof yet the gloom and horror of confinement has been reduced to a minimum by the installation of modern conveniences, toilets, both tub and shower baths, electric lights, hot and cold water, and is furnace heated.[11]

The courthouse construction continued into 1922, with the building completed by the summer. The Board of Supervisors voted to accept both the courthouse and the jail, with minor modifications in July 1922.[12]

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[8] "School, Courthouse and Jail, Plans and Specifications Accepted, Bids to Be Opened April 11, Erection Starts Later." *The Belzoni Banner,* February 10, 1921, p1.
[9] "Court House Floor Drops." *The Belzoni Banner,* October 20, 1921, p. 1.
[10] "Court House and Jail." *The Belzoni Banner,* October 27, 1921, p. 1
[11] "Moved to Jail." *The Belzoni Banner,* November 17, 1921, p. 1.
[12] "Supervisors Accept Work." *The Belzoni Banner,* July 13, 1922, p.1.

The county planned a grand celebration to mark the dedication and opening of the courthouse on August 3, 1922. *The Belzoni Banner* issued a souvenir edition commemorating the opening. In perhaps a bit of hyperbole, the writer described the new courthouse as "one of the handsomest public buildings of its kind in the state of Mississippi…a building which for simplicity of style, and architecture and beauty is not equaled anywhere on the known globe…"[13] Former Governor Theodore Bilbo "made a long but splendid talk." A barbecue was followed by additional speeches. The celebration was completed with a baseball game with the Yazoo baseball club.

All the county offices were located in the new courthouse. Offices for the Assessor, county engineer, and the county agent were located on the ground floor, along with restrooms, mechanicals and a public meeting room. The Board of Supervisors met on the first floor. Offices for the Chancery Clerk, Circuit Clerk, Tax Collector and Sheriff were also on the first floor. The large courtroom, with a balcony for African American spectators, occupied most of the second floor. There were also offices the County Judge, the County Attorney, and jury and witness rooms, segregated by gender and race. The Third Floor contained Jury Dormitories and a kitchen.[14]

Since the dedication in August 1922, the Humphreys County Courthouse has continued to serve the people of Humphreys County as the seat of county government. The county Board of Supervisors continues to meet in the courthouse. Civil and criminal cases are adjudicated in the courtroom. The primary elected officials still maintain offices in the building. With changing needs, some spaces have been repurposed. For example, with the advent of better transportation, jurors no longer need dormitory space in the courthouse. Those spaces are now used for offices and storage. The completion of the new jail in 1993 provided office space for the Sheriff and new correctional spaces. However, throughout the nearly ninety years since it was completed the Humphreys County Courthouse has a significant place in the county's history.

With the completion of the courthouse and jail, civic organizations initiated efforts to memorialize Humphreys County veterans. In October 1922, the United Daughters of the Confederacy petitioned the Board of Supervisors for an appropriation to erect a monument on the courthouse lawn. At the time, the American Legion and the Woman's Auxiliary were asked to collaborate on funding the memorial.[15] The monument, produced by Columbus Marble Works, Columbus, Mississippi, was delivered in early 1924. However, the monument was not accepted due to an error with the Doughboy figure. According to one account, the sculptor (who unfortunately remains unidentified), secured a student at State College, now Mississippi State University, as a model. The final figure included the ROTC insignia worn the college cadets.[16] The mistake was corrected and the final monument featuring a figure of a Confederate soldier, a

[13] ""Was a Famous Celebration" Souvenir Edition Commemorating the Opening of the Humphreys County Courthouse, *The Belzoni Banner*, August 10, 1922 (reprinted April 8, 1976), p. 1.
[14] "Description of Humphreys County Courthouse." Souvenir Edition, p. 5.
[15] "A Memory Monument." *The Belzoni Banner*, October 12, 1922.
[16] Cerame, p. 106.

Doughboy, and a woman representing the mothers of Civil War and World War I veterans was unveiled on July 24, 1924.[17]

The Humphreys County Courthouse is the most prominent public building in the county. The other prominent public buildings are the United States Post Office and the Belzoni City Hall. The post office, built in 1937, is a one-story brick building with a gable roof and Colonial Revival detailing. The Belzoni City Hall is located at the corner of Hayden Street and Jackson Street in downtown Belzoni. The City Hall is a one-story building with some Neoclassical details. While both these buildings are significant, neither compares with the courthouse in scale, architectural details and quality of materials.

The Humphreys County Courthouse is the best example of a Beaux Arts style building in Humphreys County. The theories developed and taught at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris, called on the architect to study historic precedents to identify universal principles of good design and to adapt those principles to modern conditions.[18] The classical traditions of ancient Rome, and the interpretations of those precedents in the Italian Renaissance were the most popular sources for Beaux Arts designers.

Common elements employed by the Beaux Arts architect included monumental columns, rusticated raised basements, enriched cornices, and attic stories.[19] The original exuberance of the style gave way to more restrained and simpler forms which continued to emphasize symmetry and classical details.[20] The Humphreys County Courthouse reflects the more sedate form, but retains important details which mark its classical pedigree, such as the monumental columns with Doric capitals, the recessed attic story with anthemions, and the broad entablature. There are no other buildings in the county with this richness of detail.

The courthouses in neighboring counties provide some context. The Yazoo County Courthouse (NR, 1979) in Yazoo City is an Italianate style building designed by Charles Oates in 1871-72. The Holmes County Courthouse (NR, 1994) in Lexington was built in 1894 and is a Queen Anne style building. The Washington County Courthouse in Greenville is a Richardsonian Romanesque building completed in 1891, with additions in 1930 and the early 1950s.

The (old) Humphreys County Jail is no longer in use, replaced by a new facility in 1993. The only surviving historic jail building in the surrounding counties is the (old) Holmes County Jail in Lexington, Mississippi. The Art Deco structure designed by the Jackson firm of Overstreet & Town is also vacant.

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[17] Source Material for Mississippi History, Humphreys County, Historic Art. Series 447, Box 10714. Mississippi Department of Archives and History.
[18] Mark Gelernter. *A History of American Architecture.* (Hanover and London: University Press of New England, 1999), 197.
[19] John J-G. Blumenson. *Identifying American Architecture.* Rev. ed. (New York, W.W. Norton & Company, 1981), 67.
[20] John C. Poppeliers and S. Allen Chambers, Jr. *What Style is It?* Rev. ed. (New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2003), 95.

Monuments to the veterans of the Civil War are ubiquitous in Mississippi. Almost every county has a memorial, many located on courthouse lawns. This reflects a regional trend in the New South at the turn of the century. As was the case in Humphreys County, the leading forces behind these commemorations were women organized into memorial associations. More than merely eulogizing the dead, the memorialization efforts were often an attempt to rewrite history, honoring the "Lost Cause." Art historian Cynthia Mills wrote

> Built first in grief and later in celebration during a great wave of commemorative efforts that peaked in the early 1900s, public monuments became a central means of rewriting history from the Confederate perspective-"righting history," their patrons said. Unveiled with elaborate ritual and rhetoric, they bear inscriptions of honor, courage, duty, state's rights, and northern aggression.[21]

Monuments to soldiers of the First World War are not as common in Mississippi. Perhaps the most notable is the War Memorial Building in Jackson. Designed by Jackson architect E.L Malvaney and completed in 1940, the building honors Mississippi veterans of all military conflicts. Memorials strictly dedicated the veterans of the "Great War" include the Doughboy statue in Meridian and a monument in downtown Vicksburg. The only other monument honoring both Confederates and WW I veterans is located in Poplarville on the grounds of the Pearl River County Courthouse, also fabricated by the Columbus Marble Works.

Women have an exalted place in Lost Cause art and literature. This is most clearly manifested in Belle Kinney's *Monument to the Women of the Confederacy,* (NR, 1969) dedicated in 1917 on the grounds of the Mississippi Capitol. Monuments in Hattiesburg (NR, 1980), Heidelberg, Laurel (NR, 1987), and Yazoo City (NR, 1979) all honor the women of the Confederacy. The Leflore County Confederate Monument (NR, 1980) in Greenwood is inscribed

> To the Confederate Woman/none has told the story of her,/whose heart and life were a sacrifice. Offered as valiantly/and unselfishly upon the altar of/her Southland, as was any/warriors life upon the battlefield…

[21] Cynthia Mills, "Introduction," in *Monuments to the Lost Cause: Women, Art, and the Landscapes of Southern Memory,* eds. Cynthia Mills and Pamela H. Simpson (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2003), xv.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

The Belzoni Banner

Blumenson, John J-G. *Identifying American Architecture.* Rev. ed. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 1981.

Cerame, Mrs. Jon. *From Greasy Row to Catfish Capital.* Oxford: Rebel Press, Inc., 1978.

Gelernter, Mark. *A History of American Architecture: Buildings in Their Cultural and Technological Context.* Hanover and London: University Press of New England, 1999.

Mills, Cynthia and Pamela H. Simpson, eds. *Monuments to the Lost Cause: Women, Art, and the Landscapes of Southern Memory.* Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2003.

Poppeliers, John C. and S. Allen Chambers, Jr. *What Style is It?,* Rev. Ed. New York: John C. Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2003.

Source Material for Mississippi History, Humphreys County. Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
____ previously listed in the National Register
____previously determined eligible by the National Register
____designated a National Historic Landmark
____ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

__X__ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency

Humphreys County Courthouse
Name of Property

Humphreys County, MS
County and State

____ Federal agency
____ Local government
____ University
____ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 053-BLZ-0001 ML

---

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property _____Less than 5_____

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)
1. Latitude: Longitude:

2. Latitude: Longitude:

3. Latitude: Longitude:

4. Latitude: Longitude:

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Or
UTM References
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

1. Zone: Easting: Northing:

2. Zone: Easting: Northing:

3. Zone: Easting: Northing:

4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

---

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: William M. Gatlin
organization: Mississippi Department of Archives and History
street & number: PO Box 571
city or town: Jackson state: MS zip code: 39201-0571
e-mail_bgatlin@mdah.state.ms.us
telephone: 601-576-6951
date:

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Humphreys County Courthouse

City or Vicinity: Belzoni

County: Humphreys State: Mississippi

Photographer: For photos 1-18 William M. Gatlin, MDAH
For photos 19-20 Barry White, MDAH

Date Photographed: For photos 1-18 July 9, 2012
For photos 19-20 September 6, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

0001 Exterior, north elevation, camera facing south

0002 Exterior, northwest elevation, camera facing southeast
0003 Exterior, west elevation, camera facing northeast
0004 Exterior, east elevation, camera facing northwest
0005 Interior, lobby, camera facing southwest
0006 Interior, first floor hall, camera facing east
0007 Interior, east stair, camera facing southeast
0008 Interior, Circuit Clerk's office, camera facing east
0009 Interior, Chancery Clerk's office, camera facing west
0010 Interior, Chancery Clerk's vault, camera facing north
0011 Interior, Board of Supervisors, camera facing southwest
0012 Interior, second floor hall, holding cell, camera facing northwest
0013 Interior, third floor hall and stair, camera facing couth
0014 Interior, ground for hall, camera facing east
0015 Veterans Memorial, camera facing southeast
0016 Old Jail, camera facing southeast
0017 Old Jail, kitchen, camera facing northwest
0018 New Jail, camera facing southwest
0019 Interior, Courtroom, camera facing northeast
0020 Interior, Courtroom, camera facing northwest

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Humphreys County Courthouse
Name of Property
Humphreys County, Mississippi
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

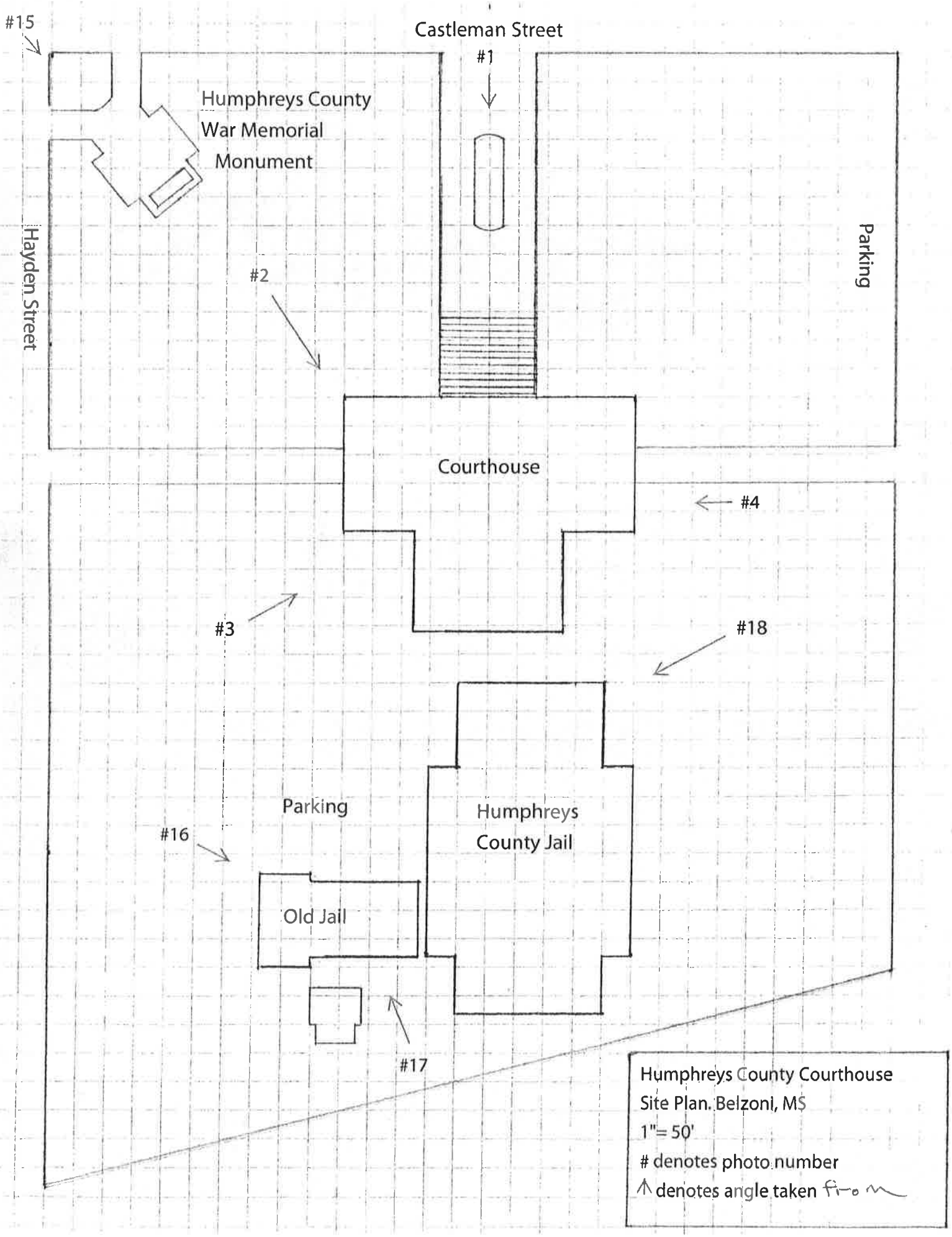
Section number 10 Page 1

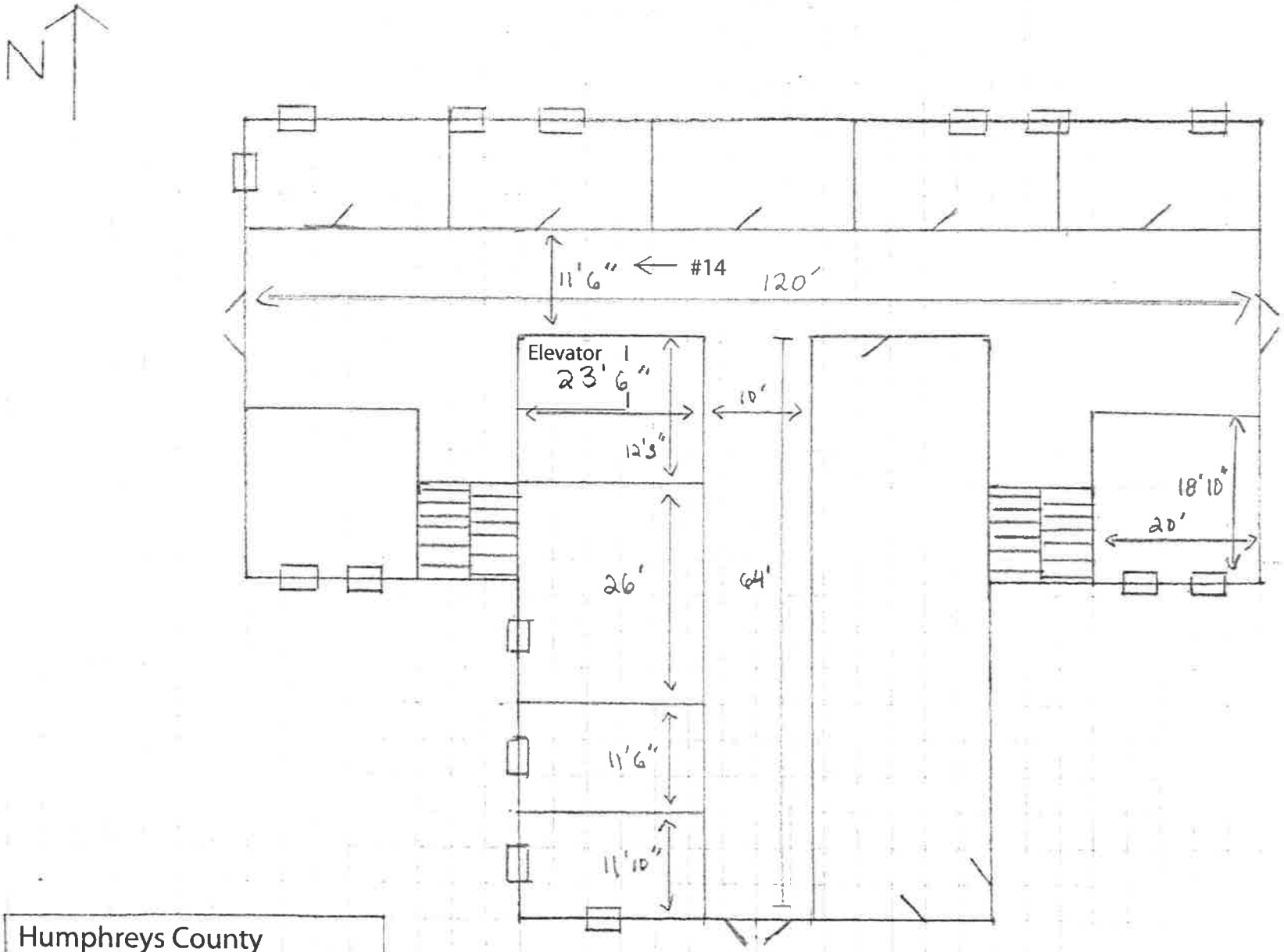
Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

(Follow similar guidelines for entering these coordinates as for entering UTM references described on page 55, *How to Complete the National Register Registration Form*. For properties less than 10 acres, enter the lat/long coordinates for a point corresponding to the center of the property. For properties of 10 or more acres, enter three or more points that correspond to the vertices of a polygon drawn on the map. The polygon should approximately encompass the area to be registered. Add additional points below, if necessary.)

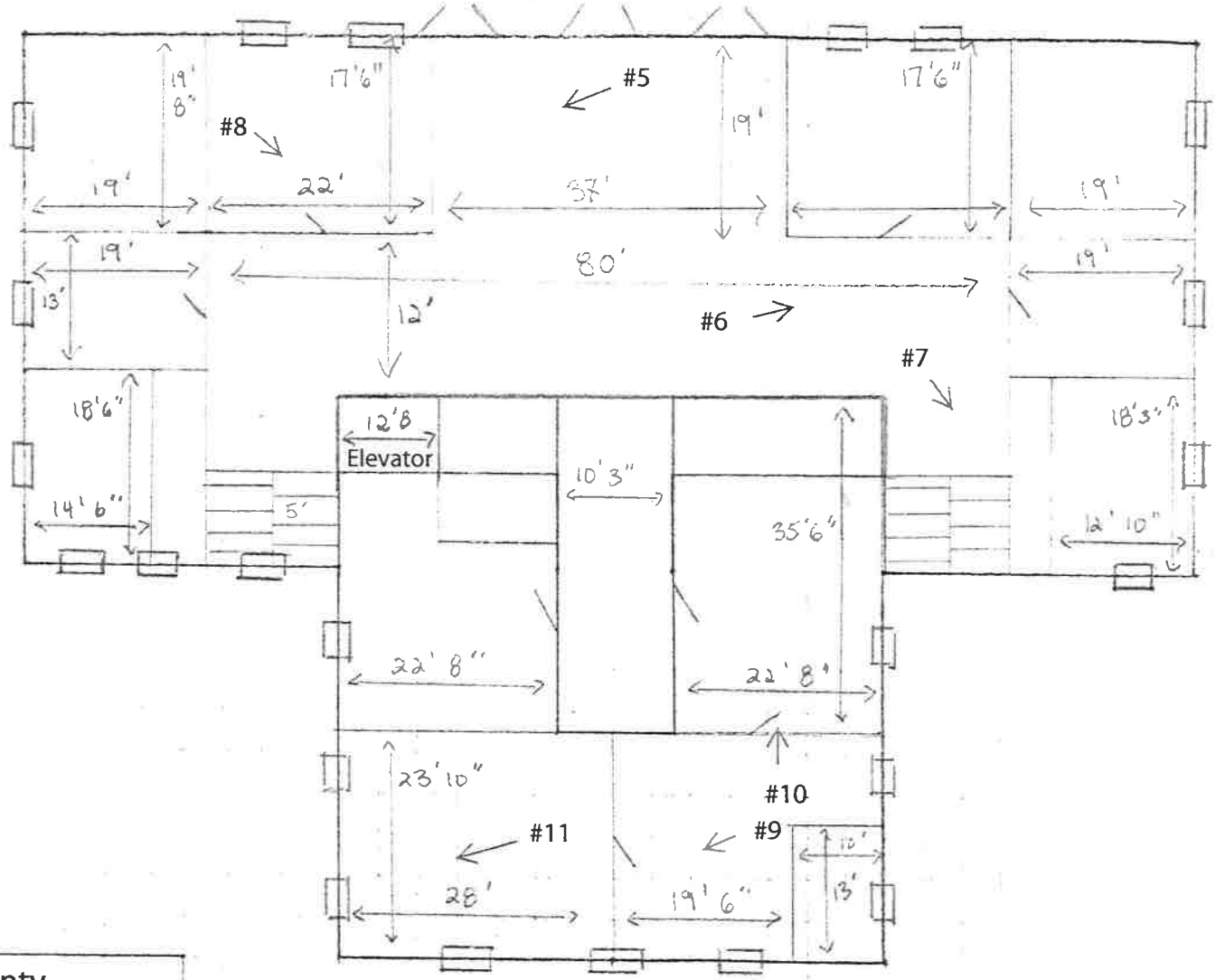
Datum: WG 84

1. Latitude: 33.175556 Longitude: -90.487778

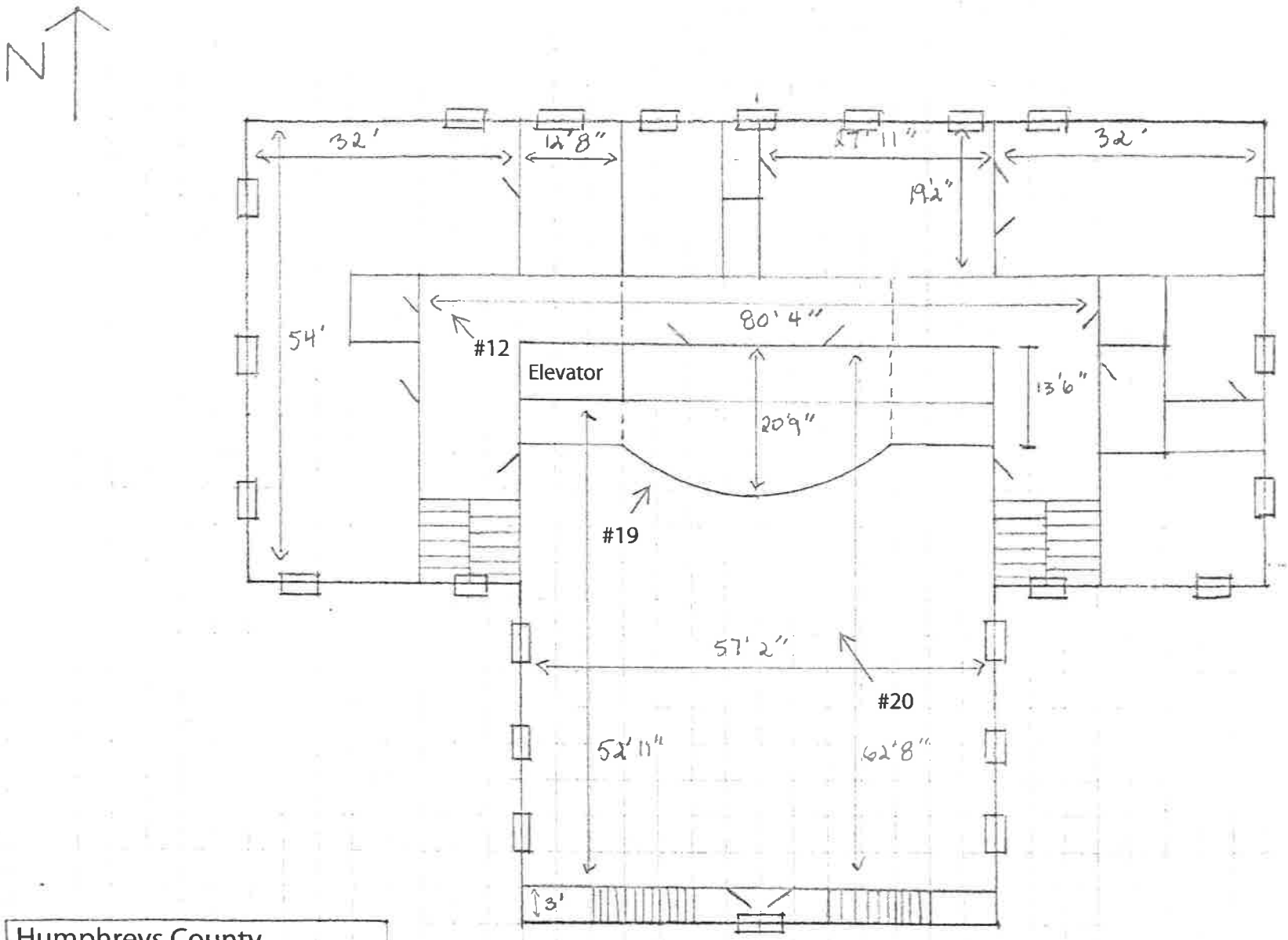

#15
Castleman Street
#1
Humphreys County
War Memorial
Monument
Hayden Street
Parking
#2
Courthouse
#4
#3
#18
Parking
#16
Humphreys
County Jail
Old Jail
#17
Humphreys County Courthouse
Site Plan. Belzoni, MS
1"= 50'
# denotes photo number
↑ denotes angle taken



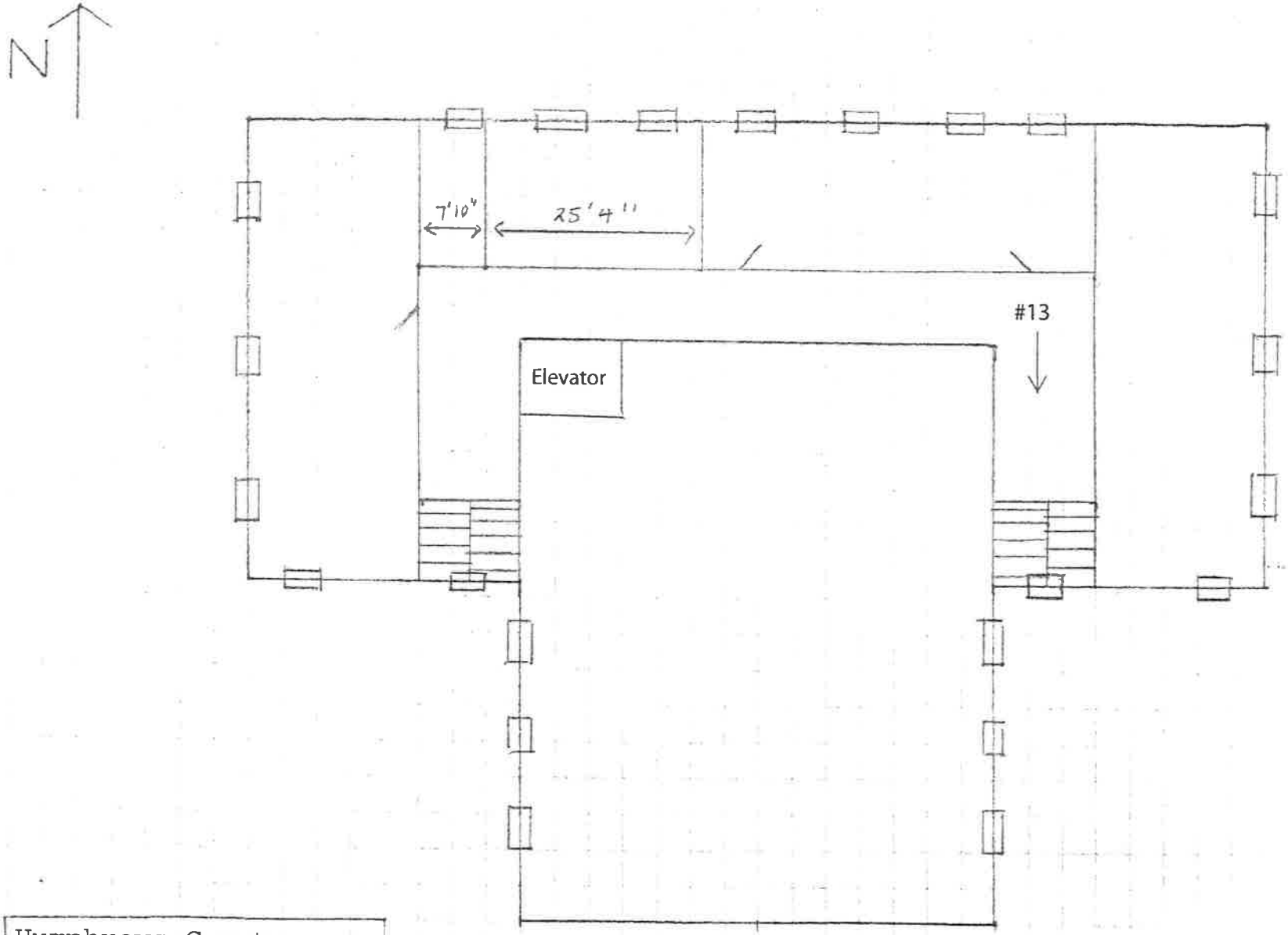
Humphreys County
Courthouse. Belzoni,MS
Ground Floor
1/16"= 1'
Window /Door



Humphreys County
Courthouse. Belzoni,MS
First Floor
1/16"= 1'
Window /Door



Humphreys County
Courthouse. Belzoni,MS
Second Floor
1/16"= 1'
[]Window /Door



Humphreys County
Courthouse. Belzoni, MS
Third Floor
1/16"= 1'
[]Window /Door

HVMPHREYS COVNTY COVRT HOVSE

HVMPHREYS . COVNTY COVRT HOVSE

Sports Center
Public Notices
Public Notices

MS Senate Districts
As Adopted March 21, 2002
Humphreys County
MS House Districts
As Adopted March 21, 2002
Belzoni
Humphreys County
MS House Districts
As Adopted March 21, 2002
Humphreys County
CIRCUIT CLERK
JULY 2012

JULY 2012

980470
980572
2000-0001
2000-0112
2000-0113
2000-0237
2001-0091
2002-0111
2003-0090
2003-0091
2004-0051
2004-0052
2004-0208
2004-0209
2004-0375
2004-0376
2005-0096
2005-0096
2006-0011
2006-0012
2006-0178
2006-0179
2007-0061
2007-0062
2007-0206
2007-0207
2008-0102

WILLIE F. BROWN

YOUTH COUNSELOR'S OFF

STICE
OURT

COVRT HOVSE
TO THE BELOVED WOMEN OF THE CONFEDERACY AND THE WORLD WAR
HUMPHREYS COUNTY TRIBUTE TO HER SONS OF THE WORLD WAR 1917—1918
TO THE MEN WHO WORE THE GREY AND WERE FAITHFUL TO THE END 1861—1865

FRONTIER