

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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 Lake County Courthouse
Other names/site number _____
Name of related multiple property listing Historic County Government Facilities in Tennessee
(Remove "N/A" if property is part of a multiple property listing and add name)

2. Location

Street & Number: 229 Church Street
City or town: Tiptonville State: TN County: Lake
Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A Zip: 38079

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this ___ 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 ___ 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 local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
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 of Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

Lake County Courthouse
 Name of Property

Lake County, Tennessee
 County and State

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:) _____

 Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
2	3	objects
4	4	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Lake County Courthouse
Name of Property

Lake County, Tennessee
County and State

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

GOVERNMENT: Courthouse

Recreation/Culture: Monument/Marker

Correctional Facility (Jail)

Current Functions

GOVERNMENT: Courthouse

Recreation/Culture: Monument/Marker

Correctional Facility (Jail)

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Classical Revival/Neo-Classical Revival

Materials:

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick Veneer, Concrete, Wood, Asphalt Shingle, Stone

Narrative Description

The Lake County Courthouse, located downtown Tiptonville, Tennessee (pop 3,976) is a local example of Classical Revival Architecture.¹ It was funded mostly by the PWA and constructed by McGuire and Company of Memphis, Tennessee.² Downtown Tiptonville consists of residential, commercial, and public buildings, all with various construction dates.

Site and Setting:

The area around the courthouse has changed some over time with newer buildings replacing older ones in the downtown area. Most of the downtown businesses were constructed in the late 1940s and early 1950s, however a few remain from the 1910 decade and the most recent constructions were from the early 2000s.³

¹<https://data.census.gov/all?q=Tiptonville%20town,%20Tennessee>

²<https://courthouses.co/us-states/o-u/tennessee/lake-county/#:~:text=The%20first%20court%20met%20in%20the%20Masonic%20Hall,present%20courthouse%20was%20constructed%20in%201935%20to%201936>

³TN Property Data, <https://assessment.cot.tn.gov/TPAD>

Lake County Courthouse
Name of Property

Lake County, Tennessee
County and State

There is one National Register listed property in the same town as the courthouse: The Caldwell-Hopson House, at 431 Wynn Street in Tiptonville. This property is located about 1,400 feet to the southeast from the courthouse.

Lake County Courthouse, 1899 & 1936 (Contributing Building):

Exterior:

The Lake County Courthouse is a one and two-story frame building in an irregular plan with brick veneer siding and a concrete foundation. The courthouse has a hip roof with asphalt shingles and one-over-one double-hung vinyl windows on a concrete sill. A stone cornice runs along the between the first and second story.

Façade (north elevation)

The façade of the courthouse is located on the north elevation. Concrete steps and two metal handrails lead up to a two-story central entry porch with four fluted Doric columns and two Corinthian style pilasters. Hanging from the porch's ceiling is a nine-light Millennium Chandelier. The entryway consists of a centered double-door entrance in a metal frame with side lights on either side and a transom above the doorway. The doorway is adorned with a triangular pediment with an ornament design. The first story has two double-hung windows on the west-end with a key stone between a brick lintel. On the second story, above a cornice that runs around the building, there are two double-hung windows on the west-end, a set of triple double-hung windows centered above the doorway and two windows between the cornice on the east-end both with a transom and a keystone between a brick lintel.

East Elevation

On the east elevation, an ADA compliant concrete ramp with metal hand rails continues from the façade porch. The cornice from the façade also continues, separating the first and second story windows. The first window from the façade is between the cornice and has a round transom with a brick lintel and a keystone in-between. On the first story there is a window bay with two single stationary windows and a set of double windows. There are five more windows symmetrically aligned on both the first and second story.

The east elevation connects to the one-story addition on the end of the building. The addition has five windows and two doors. The first door has a metal frame and the second door is wooden with a large window pane and a metal storm door. The entrances both have concrete steps and metal hand rails with an awning overhead.

South Elevation

The one-story addition continues on the south elevation (rear) with two sets of double windows on the east end with a single window and another set of double windows on the west end. Centered between the two ends is a small opening in the building where windows facing each other. A single and a set of double windows face west and three single windows face east.

West Elevation

On the west elevation, the one-story addition continues with three sets of double windows. Rounding the corner of the addition, is a single metal framed door centered between two single windows which face north. This entrance has concrete steps with handrails and an awning. Beside the entrance is a basement entrance

Lake County Courthouse
Name of Property

Lake County, Tennessee
County and State

that has concrete steps leading down to a metal door. The basement extends under most of the west-end first-story addition.

The west elevation continues with the connecting two-story section. The second-story's west elevation mostly resembles the east elevation with symmetrically aligned windows, a bay window on the first-story with a single, double, single, window combination. The west elevation also has a south-end, brick exterior chimney that rises above the second story roof.

Interior:

The interior of the courthouse begins by entering the centered double doors on the first-story of the north elevation. Upon entering, there is a central hallway on the first floor that extends directly back to the south end of the building. On either side of the central hall are rooms and offices including: county mayor's office, clerk and master's office, register's office, juvenile's office, judge's office, a conference room, and a bathroom. The central hall leads to the one-story addition which connects by a horizontal hall. This hall begins with a vault and leads to more offices and an east and northwest exit.

The second floor of the courthouse is accessible by a single flight staircase located to the left of the courthouse's entrance. The second floor has a court clerk office, a conference room, bathrooms, and the only courtroom. The courtroom is a large square space with a judge's bench centered on the south wall along with a small room beside the judge's bench. Jury seats are located on the east wall and two small tables along with a podium are centered to the room facing the judge's bench. The public area consists of five pews that face the bench on both the east and west walls.

Throughout the courthouse there are drop ceilings and florescent lighting, except for a couple of small chandeliers on the second floor. There are a few offices on the first floor (addition) that have exposed wood ceilings. The first floor has mostly luxury vinyl plank (LVP) flooring and some carpet in the offices, while the second floor mostly has carpeted floors. There are sheetrock walls and a wood trim-chair rail that extends along the walls on both floors. The doors throughout are wooden and the first floor has trimmed doors with a single window pane and transom. Displayed throughout first floor hallways, are framed high school graduate class photos from the former Tiptonville High School during the years of 1927-1964.

The interior spaces of the Lake County Courthouse have had no major structural changes only minimal cosmetic updates were provided since its completion in 1936. The interior of the courthouse was recently painted and had new floor coverings installed throughout. The wood furniture in the courtroom was also stained recently. Other than an elevator that was installed during the late 1990s, the interior floor plan has remained the same since the 1936 remodel and addition.

Lake County Jail #1 building: 1964 (Contributing Building)

The buildings for the Lake County jail are located behind the courthouse on the property's south elevation. The first building associated with the Lake County Jail was constructed in 1964 and is considered the main jail building. The jail has brick veneer and vinyl siding and a shingle roof. In 2001 an addition was added, extending the building to the west. The addition is a concrete block construction with a metal roof and was painted to resemble the appearance of original section of the building. The addition also includes a chain-link/razor wire fenced-in outdoor area and basketball court.

Lake County Jail, #2 building: 1990 (Non-Contributing Building)

Lake County Courthouse
Name of Property

Lake County, Tennessee
County and State

The 2nd building associated with the Lake County Jail was built in 1990 for offices. This building connects to the north elevation of the 1964 jail building. This building was constructed to resemble the 1964 jail building with brick veneer and vinyl siding and a shingle roof.

Lake County, Courthouse Sign: c.1990s (Non-Contributing Object)

There is a rectangular black sign with a concrete block base in front of the courthouse with white that letters reads: "Lake County Courthouse." The sign is believed to have been installed over 20 years ago, approximately in the late 1990s.

Tennessee Historical Commission -Historic Marker – 4B 24: Date Unknown (Non-Contributing Object)

A "Capture of Island No. 10 – Apr. 8, 1862 – Covered by Federal gunboats, Major Gen. John Pop landed part of his army of 25,000 on the west shore of Madrid Bend, outflanking confederate defenses, causing abandonment of the Island. Brig. Gen. W.W. Mackall, retreating south, finding himself cut off by gunboats and high water, surrendered the remnant of the confederate force on the northern outskirts of Tiptonville."

United States Post Office Box (USPS) Box: Date Unknown (Non-Contributing Object)

The United States Post Office has a blue drop box located on the courthouse's north property. It is unknown when this box was installed.

Flag Pole: c. early 1970s (Contributing Object)

The flag pole in front of the courthouse holds an American Flag and has a concrete base with an inscription that reads: "C. B. Cates 1893-1970 Commandant U.S. Marine Corps 1948-1952 Lieutenant 96 Company 6 Marine Regt. World War I." This flag pole with the base was installed in the early 1970s to commemorate Clifton Bledsoe (C.B.) Cates, who was born and raised in Lake County and was the most decorated marine in WWI.

U.S. Coast Geodetic Survey Bench Mark: c.1935 (Contributing Object)

A U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey Bench Mark is located in front of the Lake County Courthouse on the north end of the property boundary. The flat top marker was installed approximately in 1935 (according to noaa.maps.arcgis.com) and it is set in concrete. The marker reads: "U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey Bench Mark, Elev. Feet above sea level; \$250 Fine or Imprisonment for Disturbing this Mark."

Lake County Courthouse
Name of Property

Lake County, Tennessee
County and State

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.)

Areas of Significance

Architecture

Period of Significance

1899-1975

Significant Dates

1899, 1936

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

McGuire & Company of Memphis –
Contractor

Public Works Administration (PWA)

- 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.
- 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.)

Property is:

- 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.

Lake County Courthouse
Name of Property

Lake County, Tennessee
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Lake County Courthouse was constructed in 1899 and is located in Tiptonville, the seat of Lake County, Tennessee. Lake County received funding from the federal Public Works Administration (PWA) Program to repair and remodel their building, giving the courthouse a Classical Revival Style in 1936. This courthouse is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its significant local example of the late 19th and 20th Century Classical Revival architecture, which was popular during the New Deal era. It is nominated under the registration requirements for County Courthouses set forth in the Multiple Property Documentation form for Historic County Courthouses in Tennessee, 1865-1945.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Context

Lake County is the furthest northwest Tennessee county and the smallest county in the state, covering only 210 square miles. The county was named for Reelfoot Lake, the largest natural lake in Tennessee with 15,000-acres that were created by a series of violent earthquakes in 1811 and 1812 when the Mississippi River flowed backwards for a brief time.⁴ The lake was named after Bill Jones, whose clubfoot gained him the nickname “Reelfoot Jones.” In March 1839, Jones died when he slipped from a foot log, fell into Spring Creek, and drowned. From then on, the creek was known as “Reelfoot Creek,” and since it fed the lake, the shallow body of water also acquired the name Reelfoot.⁵ Before the area was established, the first white men to visit the area were hunters and trappers. The first settler of the county was Stephen Mitchell and in 1819 he established a boat landing on the Mississippi River. By 1827 settlers established their homesteads along the river.⁶

Originally, the current Lake County area was within Obion County and this neighboring county was established on October 24th, 1823. Residents had to travel to Troy, the county seat of Obion County at the time, in order to conduct county business. It was a great difficulty for residents on the west side of the former Obion County to cross the “scatters of the Reelfoot Lake,” which was a swampy area extending south from the lake to the Obion River.⁷ In 1858, a special Circuit Court was established for the portion of Obion County lying west of Reelfoot Lake. The first term of this court was held in June 1858 in the Masonic Hall in Cronanville, the largest village at that time.⁸ Lake County officially became a separate county in 1870 and the first county court was held on September 5, 1870 in the Atheneum Hall building in Tiptonville, making Tiptonville the county seat.

In 1857 the Town of Tiptonville began when William Tipton, who the town of is named for, constructed one of the first store-houses and dwellings there. A general mercantile was also built by William Mobley &

⁴“Reelfoot Lake State Park – About the Park.” www.Tnstateparks.com/parks/Reelfoot-lake

⁵Hyde, Abigail. “Lake County,” October 8, 2017. Tennessee Historical Society. <http://tennesseencyclopedia.net/entries/lake-county/>

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Lucas, S. Emmett Jr. Southern Historical Press. “The Goodspeed History of Tennessee – Dyer, Gibson, Lake, Obion, and Weakley Counties.” The Goodspeed Publishing Company, Nashville, Tennessee 1887.

⁸ Ibid.

Lake County Courthouse

Lake County, Tennessee

Name of Property

County and State

Company, and a saloon and family grocery established by J. T. Davis.⁹ During the Civil War, the battle of Island #10 was located at the Mississippi River Bend near Tiptonville. In 1861, Island #10, which was the last major Confederate fort on the Mississippi River, fell to Union forces. The newly established Town of Tiptonville was completely destroyed by Federal gun-boats during the war and had to rebuild in 1865.¹⁰

In 1907, Lake County and Reelfoot Lake received national attention when Reelfoot Lake residents waged a violent conflict with the West TN Land Company for control of the lake. The land company had acquired title to the lake and created plans to drain the lake for cotton production.¹¹ Local residents and commercial fishermen fought back against the fate of the lake and their livelihood. The conflict quickly escalated into a series of night rider attacks in which armed masked men terrorized the company and its supporters. The attacks resulted in the kidnapping and death of company attorney Quinton Rankin of Trenton and the arrest of three hundred men accused of being nightriders.¹² In 1914, the cases against the men were eventually dropped, and the state acquired the lake for public use.¹³

Today, Lake County is mostly known for Reelfoot Lake and Reelfoot Lake State Park. Lake County has a small population of only 7,005, however, the Lake and Reelfoot Lake State Park receive several hundreds of duck hunters, fishermen, and tourists every year.

First Lake County Courthouse: 1870-1896

Soon after Lake County was officially established in 1870, a committee composed of magistrates secured lots for a courthouse and jail. A jail was constructed in 1871 at the intersection of Elm and Court Street, which was known at that time as "Jail Lane."¹⁴ It was later decided by the magistrates not to build a courthouse but to rent Tiptonville's Athenaeum Hall Building until it was decided to purchase the building a year later.¹⁵ The courthouse was later moved to what was known as the J.C. Harris subdivision, where the water tank is located in "uptown Tiptonville."¹⁶ In 1896 two African American men were arrested and charged with burning the courthouse.¹⁷ One man admitted his guilt but claimed he was hired by prominent members of the community. At trial, it was proved that the men were employed by two white men to burn the courthouse.¹⁸

⁹Lucas, S. Emmett Jr. Southern Historical Press. "The Goodspeed History of Tennessee – Dyer, Gibson, Lake, Obion, and Weakley Counties." The Goodspeed Publishing Company, Nashville, Tennessee 1887.

¹⁰Hyde, Abigail. "Lake County," October 8, 2017. Tennessee Historical Society. <http://tennesseencyclopedia.net/entries/lake-county/>

¹¹Ibid.

¹²Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴Lake County Historical Society. "1870 History and Families 1992 – Lake County, Tennessee." Turner Publishing Company, Paducah, Kentucky, 1993, page 42-43.

¹⁵Ibid.

¹⁶Ibid.

¹⁷"Burned the Courthouse." *The Tennessean*, Nashville, Tennessee. August 15, 1896, page 6.

¹⁸"Charged with Burning the Courthouse." *Bolivar Bulletin*, Bolivar, Tennessee. August 28, 1896, page 1.

Lake County Courthouse
Name of Property

Lake County, Tennessee
County and State



Figure 1. Courthouse appearance after construction in 1899
(Lake County Historical Society Book)



Figure 3. Courthouse shown with shade trees
(photo from Lake County Museum)

Lake County Courthouse: 1899-1935

After a fire destroyed the Lake County Courthouse in 1896, the county had a new courthouse constructed in 1899.¹⁹ This courthouse was a “large wood frame building surrounded by a fine iron fence and a yard filled with large shade trees.”²⁰ The building was said to not have much of a style, it was relatively an unadorned vernacular frame building.²¹

In 1915, a large water fountain was erected in the front yard by the Women’s Christian Temperance Union. The water fountain had outlets for both white and black citizens and at the bottom was a bowl where dogs could drink from. On the east side of the courthouse, there were large watering troughs and hitching posts for horses.²²



Figure 2. Another view of courthouse with iron fence. (photo from Lake County Museum)

¹⁹“Tiptonville Court-House.” *The Nashville American* (now known as: *The Tennessean*), Nashville, Tennessee. Sunday, July 9, 1899, page 3.

²⁰Lake County Historical Society. “1870 History and Families 1992 – Lake County, Tennessee.” Turner Publishing Company, Paducah, Kentucky, 1993, page 42-43.

²¹Van West, Carroll. “Historic County Courthouses in Tennessee, 1865-1945,” National Register Multiple Property Submission, 1995.

²² Lake County Historical Society. “1870 History and Families 1992 – Lake County, Tennessee.” Turner Publishing Company, Paducah, Kentucky, 1993, page 42-43.

Lake County Courthouse
Name of Property

Lake County, Tennessee
County and State

Lake County Courthouse:
1936-1975

In 1935 Lake County received funds from the Federal Emergency of Public Works Administration (PWA) to help with the repairing and remodeling of the courthouse and jail.²³ It is believed that the courthouse originally requested these funds in order to receive some repairs and additional space. In 1936, the contract work was awarded to McGuire and Company of Memphis for \$90,000.²⁴ The square cupola, a dormer, and a few chimneys were removed, along with a large single window that was originally on the façade's east end was replaced with two large windows. The courthouse was covered with red brick siding, a one-story addition for office space (on south elevation), and a two-story Classical Revival portico was added on the façade.²⁵ The interior received a remodel as well with replastered and repainted walls and a remodeled and refurbished courtroom.²⁶ By the end of 1936 the courthouse remodel was completed and the newly remodeled building had a Classical Revival style.²⁷



Figure 4. Lake County Courthouse - photo take approximately in 1935-6 after some changes were made. (courthousehistory.com | a historical look at our nation's county courthouses through postcards)

By the end of 1936 the courthouse remodel was completed and the newly remodeled building had a Classical Revival style.²⁷

In 1968, a fire occurred in the courthouse, according to Emmett Lewis, Tiptonville's Fire Chief at the time, the fire was the result of defective wiring. The fire occurred on the 2nd floor and the damage was done to the clerk's office, sheriff's office, and to the courtroom, fortunately all the records were saved.²⁸

Lake County Courthouse: 1976-Present time

On July 4th, 1989, another fire at the courthouse occurred and was discovered by local police. The fire was an electrical fire that fortunately was contained to the basement where it originated.²⁹ The entire building did receive smoke damage and offices had to be vacated. Repairs for the courthouse were completed by the.³⁰

²³"Notice to Contractors." *The Commercial Appeal*, Memphis, Tennessee. November 5, 1935, page 20.

²⁴Lake County Historical Society. "1870 History and Families 1992 – Lake County, Tennessee." Turner Publishing Company, Paducah, Kentucky, 1993, page 42-43.

²⁵Van West, Carroll. "Historic County Courthouses in Tennessee, 1865-1945," National Register Multiple Property Submission, 1995.

²⁶Lake County Historical Society. "1870 History and Families 1992 – Lake County, Tennessee." Turner Publishing Company, Paducah, Kentucky, 1993, page 42-43.

²⁷Ibid.

²⁸"Tiptonville, TN (AP)." *The Jackson Sun*, Jackson, Tennessee. September 3, 1968, page 5.

Lake County Courthouse
Name of Property

Lake County, Tennessee
County and State

Today, the courthouse has remained primarily in its original state since the 1936 remodel. The majority of the exterior changes include replacing the wood windows with vinyl, adding gutters/downspouts, security cameras, and an ADA-compliant ramp with handrails at the façade entrance. Interior changes include newly painted walls and doors, stained furniture in the courtroom, florescent lighting, new flooring, and an elevator for ADA accessible needs. Currently the courthouse holds several offices in the building, including an office for the Lake County Mayor, Judge, Assessor, parole, Clerk & Master, Juvenile, Register, Court Clerk, and a USDA & Ag Extension office. Lake County’s court system is currently composed of a Chancery, General Sessions, and Juvenile Court.

Architect/Contractor & Funding:

The original architect and contractor who designed and constructed the courthouse in 1899 are unknown. In 1936, the remodel work for the courthouse was awarded to the McGuire & Company of Memphis and was designed and funded mostly by the Public Works Administration. Not much information could be found on the McGuire & Company of Memphis, however it was found that this company also worked on the National Guard Armory, West Jackson School, Paris Distributing Plant – Chevrolet Motor Company, Galloway Memorial Methodist Church in Memphis, and the Banks Grocery Company in Memphis.³¹

The Public Works Administration provided Lake County with a total of \$94,454 in funding to remodel the courthouse and jail, rehabilitate all the schools in the county, and to construct additions to the high schools in Tiptonville and Ridgely.³² From 1933 to 1938, one of PWA’s main focus was to stimulate the building industry by constructing large-scale projects, and sixty-five percent of the projects they built were courthouses.³³ Other Tennessee county courthouses that were constructed with PWA funds were: Davidson, Franklin, Lauderdale, Lewis, Madison, Obion, and Sumner Counties.³⁴ In Tennessee, PWA’s presence may have been more prominent than in other states due to its partnership with the TVA (Tennessee Valley Authority), which provides electricity throughout the state.³⁵ The Public Works Administration Program’s funds “significantly enhanced the physical portrait of the Volunteer State.”³⁶

²⁹Joseph Jones (a.k.a. Bubba), Lake County, Tennessee’s Deputy Property Assessor, provided Northwest Tennessee Preservation Planner, Jessica Baker with information concerning the fire that occurred in Lake County Courthouse’s in 1989.

³⁰Lake County Historical Society. “1870 History and Families 1992 – Lake County, Tennessee.” Turner Publishing Company, Paducah, Kentucky, 1993, page 42-43

³¹“McGuire offers Low Bid on New School Project.” The Jackson Sun, Jackson, Tennessee, October 31, 1938, Page 1.

³²“Lake County Gets \$94,545 Program – PWA Construction in State Totals \$4,531,000.” The Commercial Appeal, Memphis, Tennessee. February 28, 1936, page 38.

³³Coode, Thomas H. “Public Works Administration (PWA).” Tennessee Historical Society, October 8, 2017. Tennessee Encyclopedia: <http://tennesseeencyclopedia.net/entries/public-works-administration-pwa/>

³⁴Ibid.

³⁵Ibid.

³⁶Ibid.

Lake County Courthouse
Name of Property

Lake County, Tennessee
County and State

Registration Requirements: Historic County Courthouses in Tennessee, 1865-1945

The architectural style of the Lake County Courthouse illustrates the revival of Roman Classicism in Tennessee for public buildings during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. “Tennesseans have favored and continue to prefer the use of traditional Greek and Roman styles in their courthouses; this preference accounts for the large number of surviving courthouses in Tennessee with this style (Chester County Courthouse NR Nomination).”

The Lake County Courthouse was one of thirty-nine Tennessee county governments commissioned during 1900-1936.³⁷ In Tennessee architecture, the explosion of courthouse construction coincided with the popularity of the Neoclassical movement in American history, often described as the Classical Revival.

The World’s Fair of 1893 later influenced the “City Beautiful Movement,” which promoted grand urban planning while also classified grandiose classicism as the only proper style for American public buildings. Architectural historians believed that a public building with the classical façade expressed civic virtue.³⁸ Classical Revival style was originally popular in the larger cities of Tennessee but then beginning in 1910 the style moved into the rural counties.³⁹

During the years 1900-1930 county governments were said to have grown in size due to new programs that were implemented or expanded such as in education, public health, and highways are the most significant areas. Counties became part of the University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension network and offices for this program were placed in courthouses. As the government played more of a direct role in the lives of citizens, courthouses became administrative centers for both local and state services. The Lake County Courthouse was given the Classical Revival Style during the era of 1900-1930, when courthouses became statements of a new era of governmental power as well as statements of cultural values and architectural tastes.⁴⁰

³⁷ Van West, Carroll. “Historic Courthouses in Tennessee, 1865-1945.” MPDF 1995.

³⁸Ibid.

³⁹Ibid.

⁴⁰Ibid.

Lake County Courthouse
Name of Property

Lake County, Tennessee
County and State

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

Primary:

“Burned the Courthouse.” *The Tennessean*, Nashville, Tennessee. August 15, 1896, page 6.

“Charged with Burning the Courthouse.” *Bolivar Bulletin*, Bolivar, Tennessee. August 28, 1896, page 1.

Deed – 1898 – property acquired for current Lake County Courthouse

Joseph Jones (a.k.a. Bubba), Lake County, Tennessee’s Deputy Property Assessor, provided Northwest Tennessee Preservation Planner, Jessica Baker with information concerning the fire that occurred in Lake County’s Courthouse in 1989.

“Lake County get \$94,545 Program.” *The Commercial Appeal*, Memphis, Tennessee. February 28, 1936, Page 38.

“McGuire offers Low Bid on New School Project.” *The Jackson Sun*, Jackson, Tennessee, October 31, 1938, Page 1.

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“Tiptonville, TN (AP).” *The Jackson Sun*, Jackson, Tennessee. September 3, 1968. Page 5.

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Hyde, Abigail. “Lake County,” October 8, 2017. *Tennessee Historical Society*.
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Van West, Carroll. “Historic County Courthouses in Tennessee, 1865-1945,” National Register Multiple Property Submission, 1995.

Lake County Courthouse
 Name of Property

Lake County, Tennessee
 County and State

Previous documentation on file (NPS):		Primary location of additional data:	
	preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)		State Historic Preservation Office
	previously listed in the National Register		Other State agency
	previously determined eligible by the National Register		Federal agency
	designated a National Historic Landmark		Local government
	recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #		University
	recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #		Other
	recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #	Name of repository:	
Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):			

Lake County Courthouse
Name of Property

Lake County, Tennessee
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.83 **USGS Quadrangle** Tiptonville Quad

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (These coordinates should correspond to the corners of the property boundary. Add additional coordinates if necessary. Enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Datum if other than WGS84:

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated boundary for the Lake County Courthouse is located at the intersection of Church and South Court Street. It is defined on the Lake County Property Tax Assessment: Map 029F-B parcel 20.

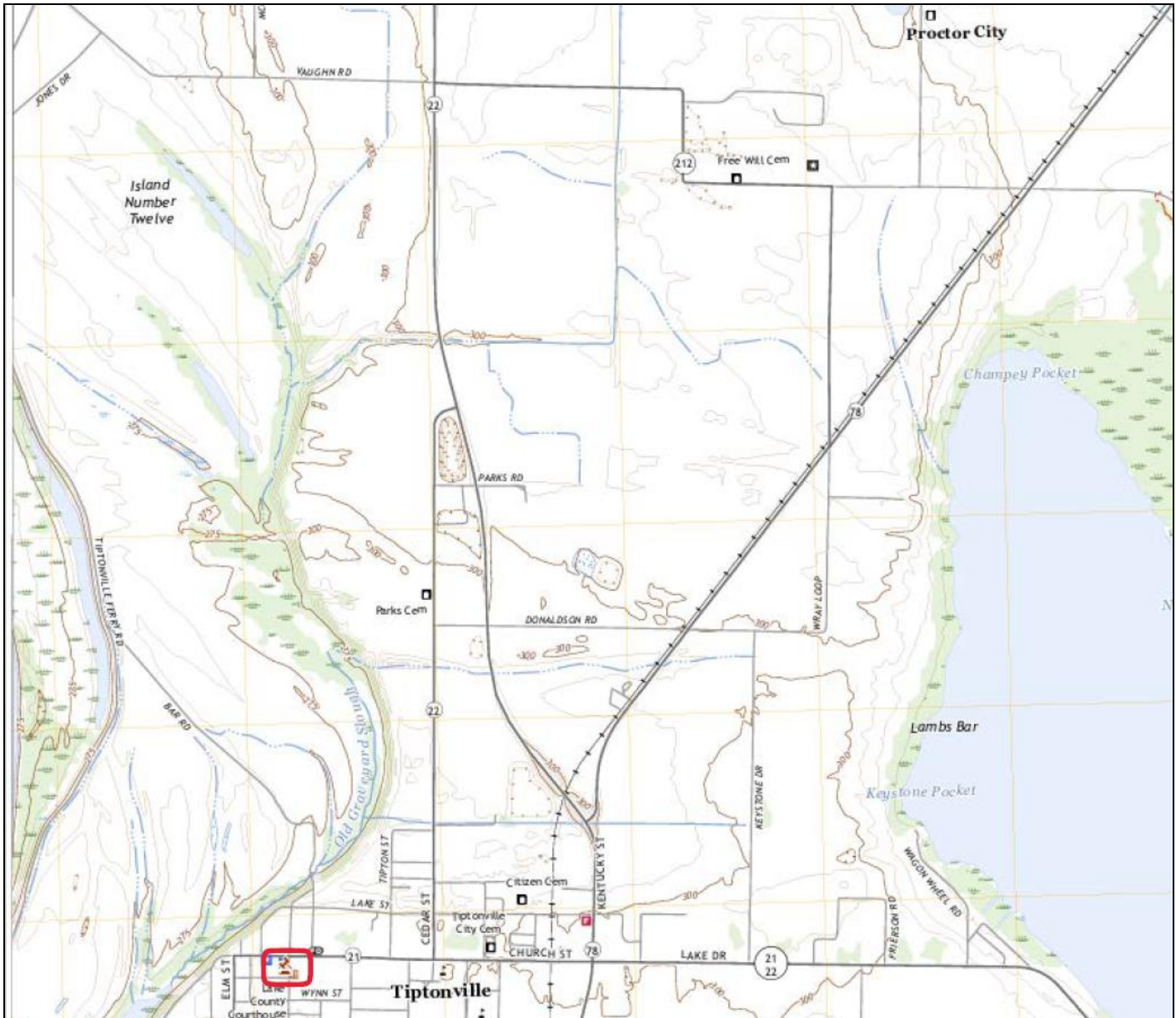
Boundary Justification:

The nominated boundary include all of the current and historic property associated with the Lake County Courthouse.

Lake County Courthouse
Name of Property

Lake County, Tennessee
County and State

USGS Topographic Map:
City of Tiptonville Quad Map
Lat/Long: 36,37809, -8948410
7.5 Minute Series
Scale: 1:24000
N ↑



Lake County Courthouse
Name of Property

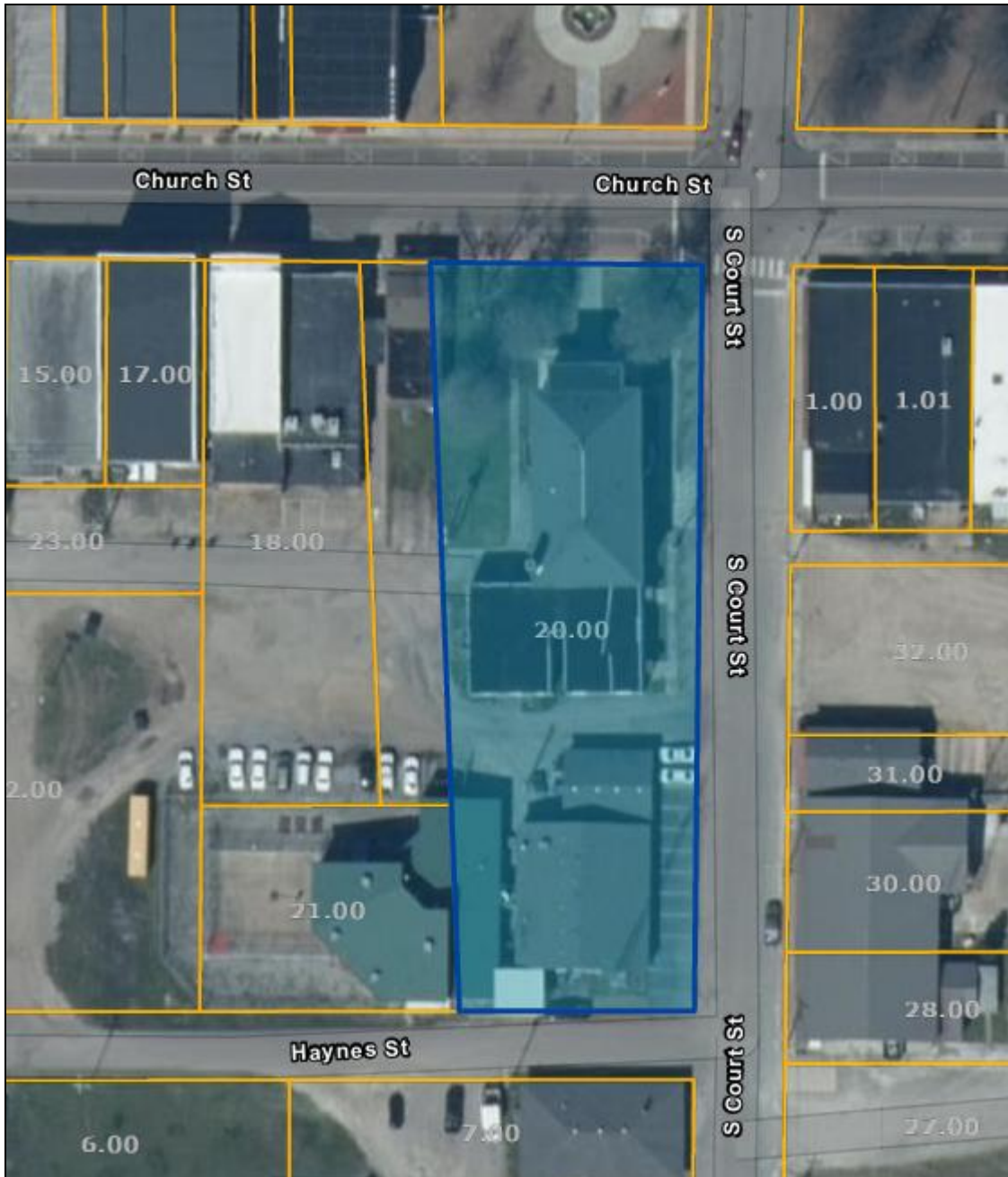
Lake County, Tennessee
County and State

Boundary Map:

TN Property Data boundary

Parcel: 029B 020.00

N ↑



Lake County Courthouse
Name of Property

Lake County, Tennessee
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

Name Jessica A. Baker

Organization Northwest TN Development District

Street & Number 124 Weldon Dr. Date 5/30/2025

City or Town Martin Telephone 731-587-4213

E-mail Jessica.baker@nwtd.org State TN Zip Code 38237

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Photographs:** (refer to Tennessee Historical Commission National Register *Photo Policy* for submittal of digital images and prints. Photos should be submitted separately in a JPEG or TIFF format. Do not embed these photographs into the form)
- **Additional items:** (additional supporting documentation including historic photographs, historic maps, etc. can be included on a Continuation Sheet following the photographic log and sketch maps. They can also be embedded in the Section 7 or 8 narratives)

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.

Lake County Courthouse
Name of Property

Lake County, Tennessee
County and State

Photo Log:

Name of Property: Lake County Courthouse in
City or Vicinity: Tiptonville
County: Lake State: TN
Photographer: Jessica Baker
Date Photographed: 12/20/2024

- 1 of 25. Lake County Courthouse Façade: photographer facing southeast.
- 2 of 25. Base of flag pole: photographer facing south.
- 3 of 25. Historic Marker and USPS Drop Box: photographer facing west.
- 4 of 25. Courthouse - west elevation: photographer facing southeast.
- 5 of 25. Courthouse – rear addition entrance & basement entrance: photographer facing south.
- 6 of 25. Courthouse - west elevation – and addition: photographer facing northeast.
- 7 of 25. Courthouse - south elevation (rear): photographer facing northeast.
- 8 of 25. Courthouse – east elevation: photographer facing northwest.
- 9 of 25. Jail façade (east elevation): photographer facing southwest.
- 10 of 25. Jail – east elevation: photographer facing northwest.
- 11 of 25. Jail -west elevation: photographer facing northeast.
- 12 of 25. Courthouse Interior – entrance & elevator: photographer facing northeast.
- 13 of 25. Courthouse – entrance hallway: photographer facing north.
- 14 of 25. Courthouse – 1st floor hallway: photographer facing east.
- 15 of 25. Courthouse - #1 vault: photographer facing northeast.
- 16 of 25. Courthouse - #2 vault: photographer facing south.
- 17 of 25. Courthouse- #2 vault interior view: photographer facing southwest.
- 18 of 25. Courthouse – addition interior: photographer facing southwest.
- 19 of 25. Courthouse – office in the addition: photographer facing south.

Lake County Courthouse
Name of Property

Lake County, Tennessee
County and State

20 of 25. Courthouse – 2nd floor stairwell view: photographer facing east.

21 of 25. Courthouse – courtroom: photographer facing south.

22 of 25. Courthouse – courtroom: photographer facing southwest.

23 of 25. Courthouse – basement entrance: photographer facing south.

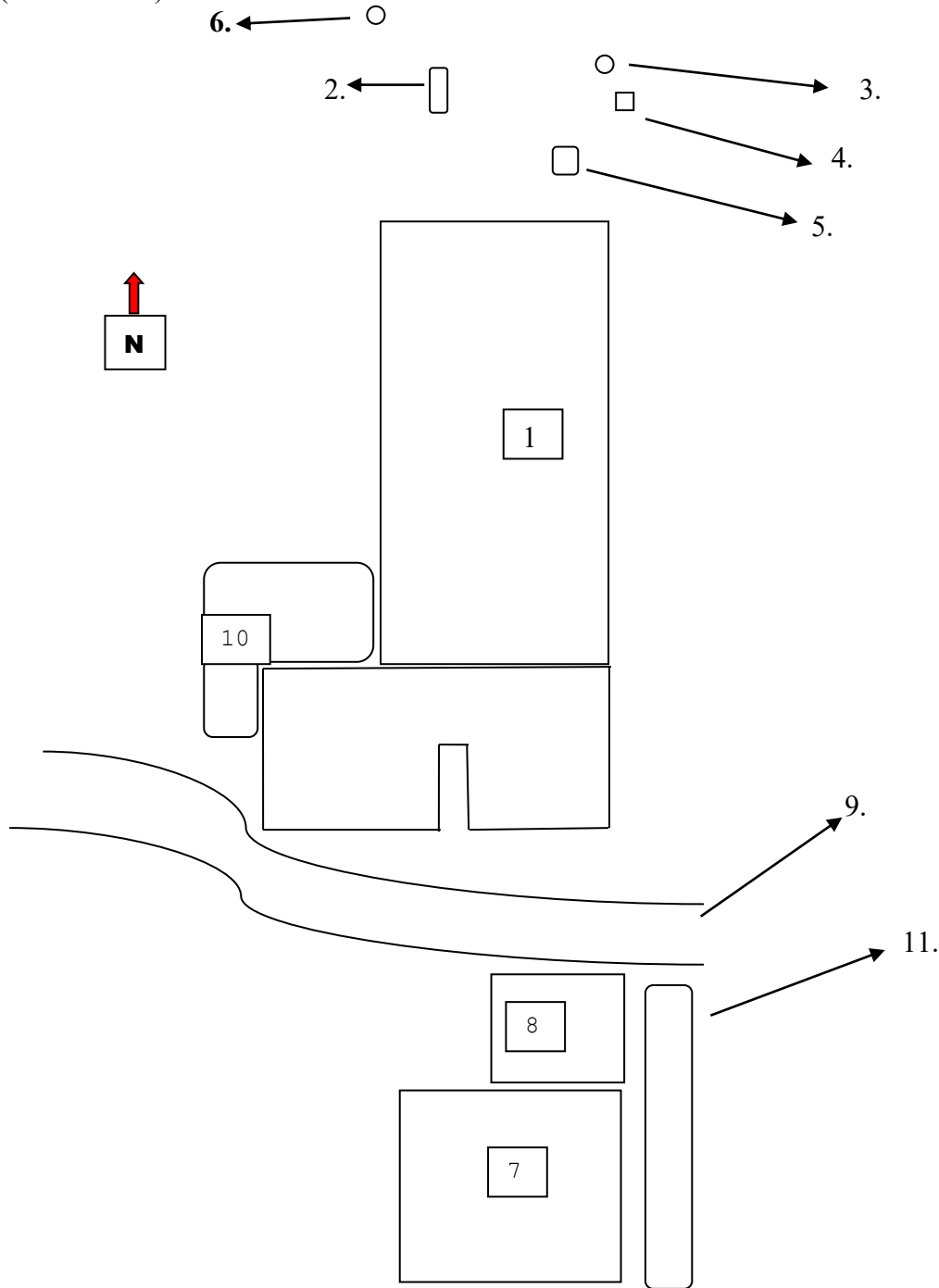
24 of 25. Courthouse – basement view: photographer facing southeast.

25 of 25. Courthouse – basement view: photographer facing north.

Lake County Courthouse
 Name of Property

Lake County, Tennessee
 County and State

Site Plan: (Not to Scale)

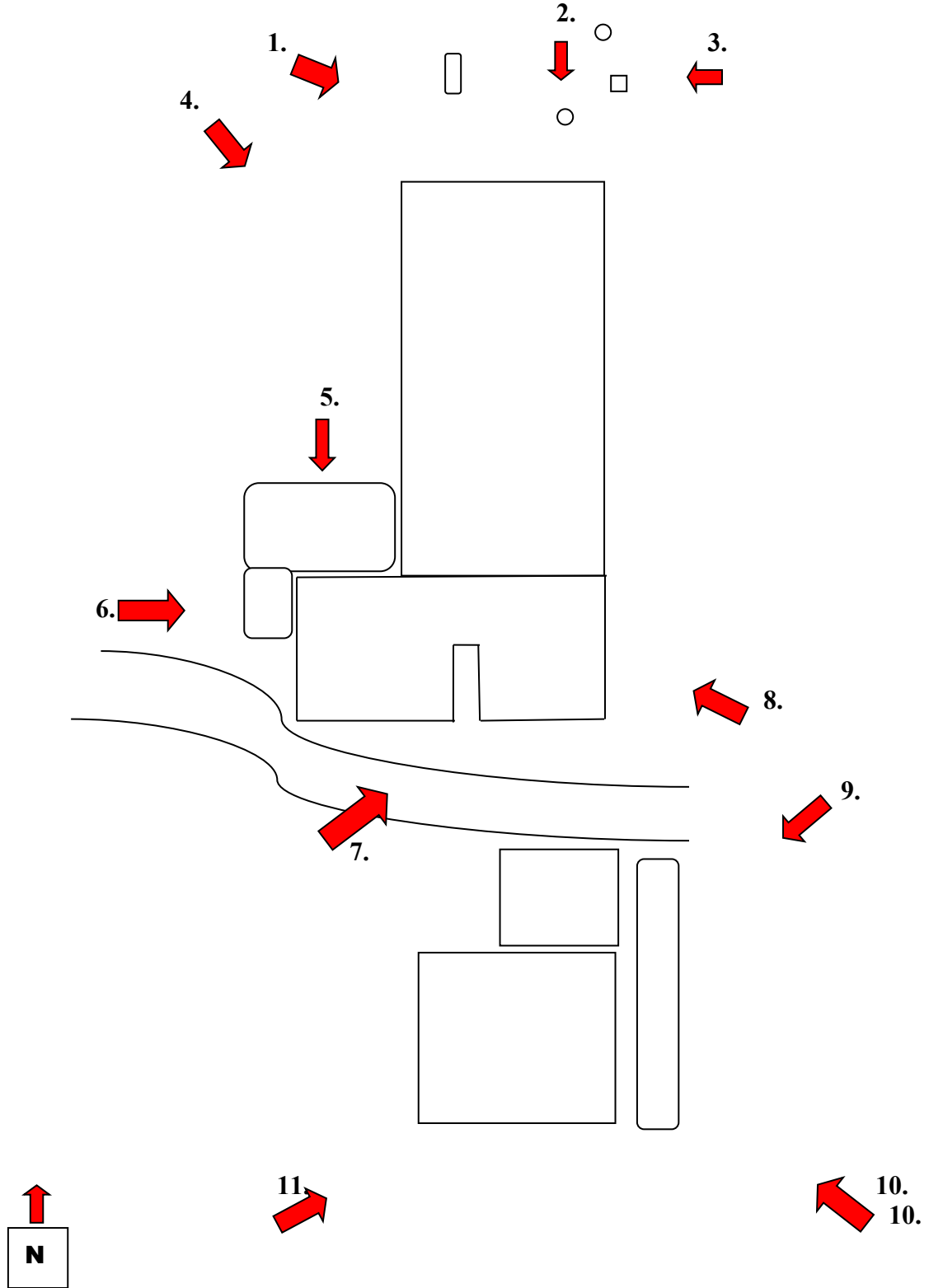


- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. Lake County Courthouse, 1935(C) | 7. Jail building #1, 1964 (C) |
| 2. Lake County Courthouse sign, late 1990s (NC) | 8. Jail building #2, 1990 (NC) |
| 3. Post Office Dropbox, unknown date (NC) | 9. Gravel road behind courthouse |
| 4. Historic marker for courthouse, unknown date (NC) | 10. Courthouse staff parking |
| 5. Flag Pole, early 1970s (C) | 11. Jail parking |
| 6. U.S. Coast Geodetic Survey Bench Mark (C) | |

Lake County Courthouse
Name of Property

Lake County, Tennessee
County and State

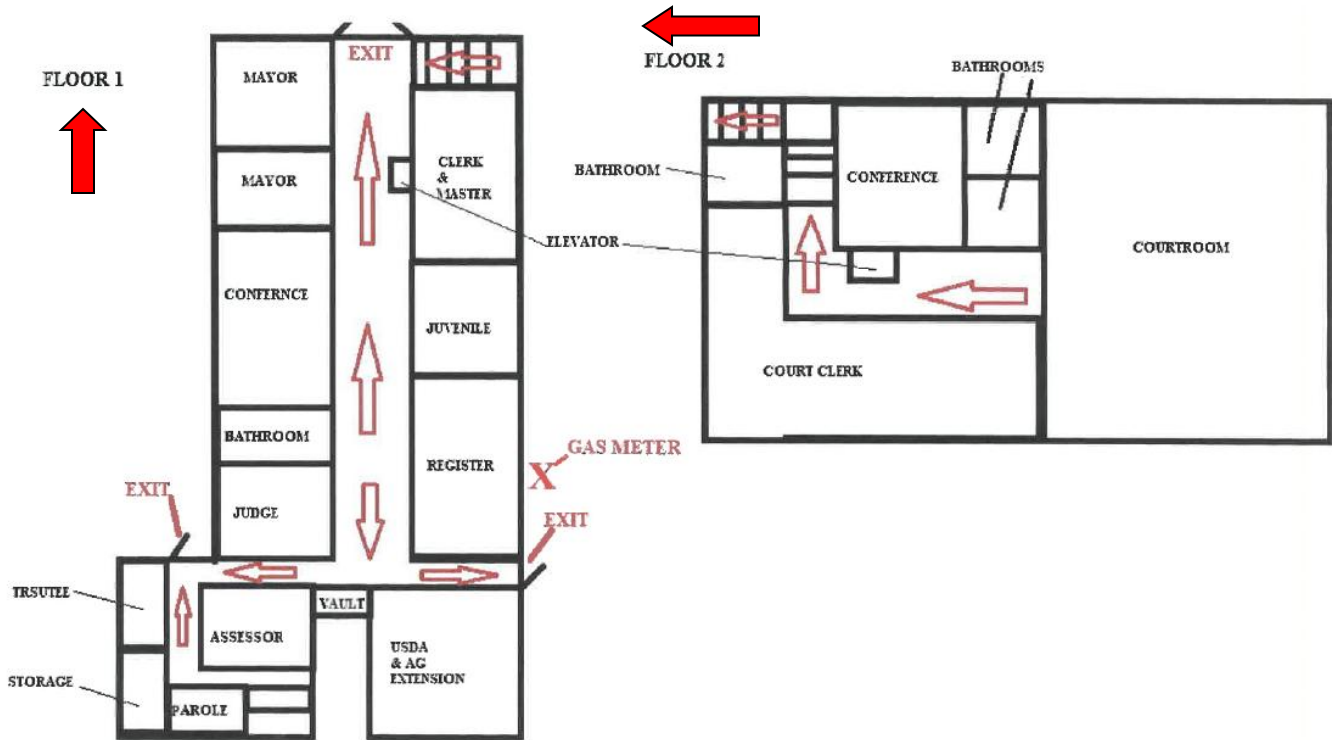
Site Plan: Photo Key



Lake County Courthouse
Name of Property

Lake County, Tennessee
County and State

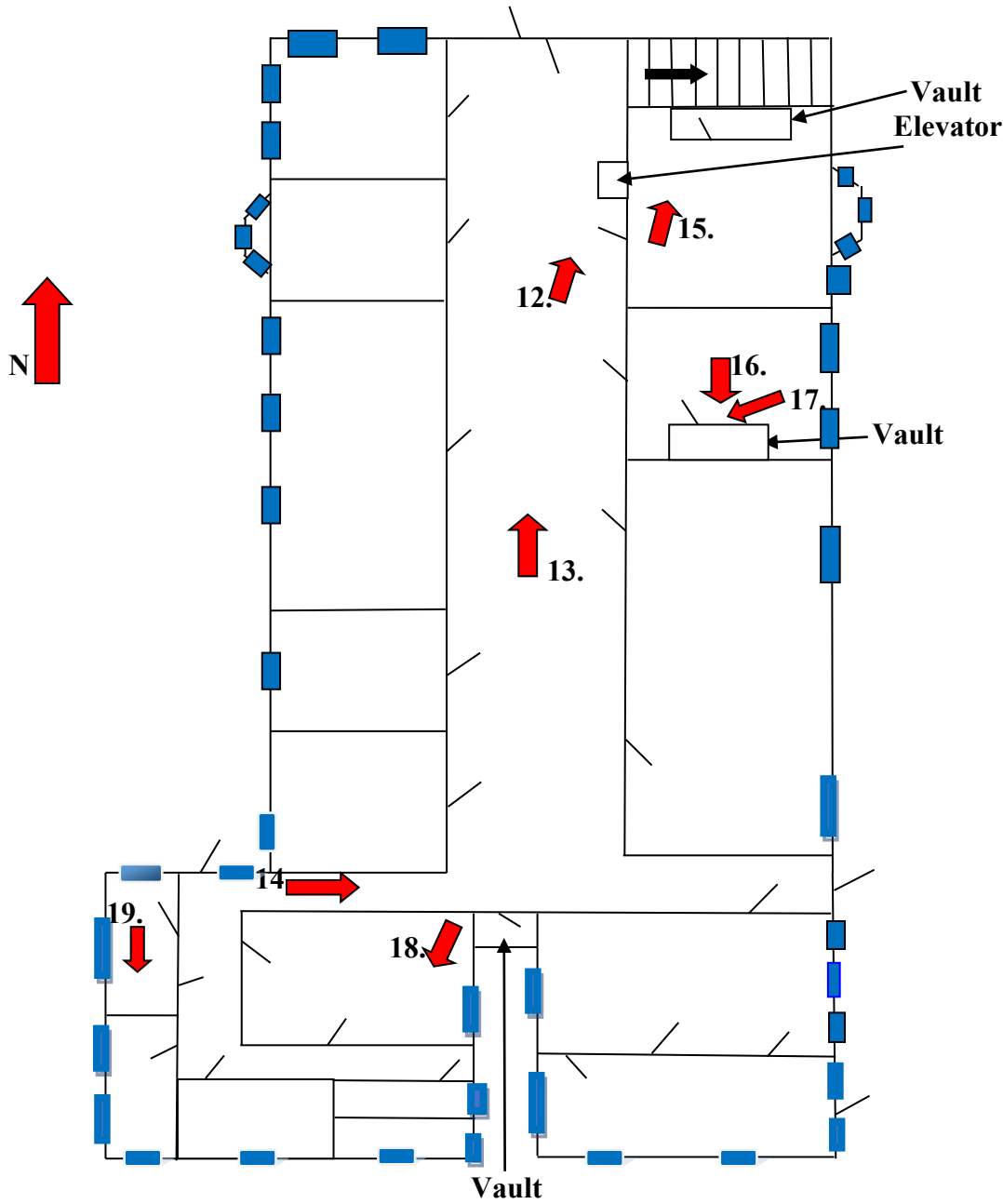
Floor Plan: 1st & 2nd Floor with room descriptions (not to scale)



Lake County Courthouse
Name of Property

Lake County, Tennessee
County and State

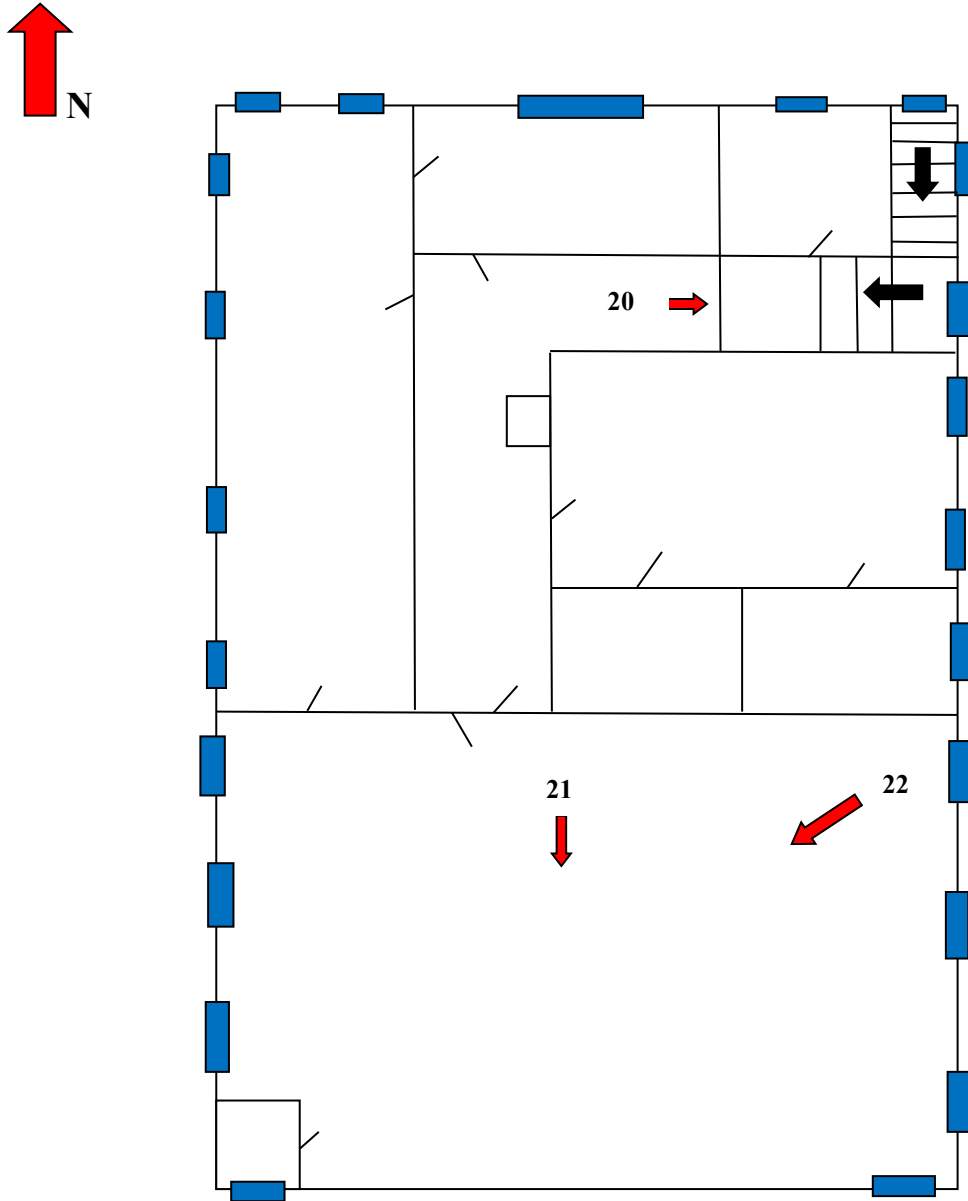
Floor Plan: 1st Floor – Keyed with photos (not to scale)



Lake County Courthouse
Name of Property

Lake County, Tennessee
County and State

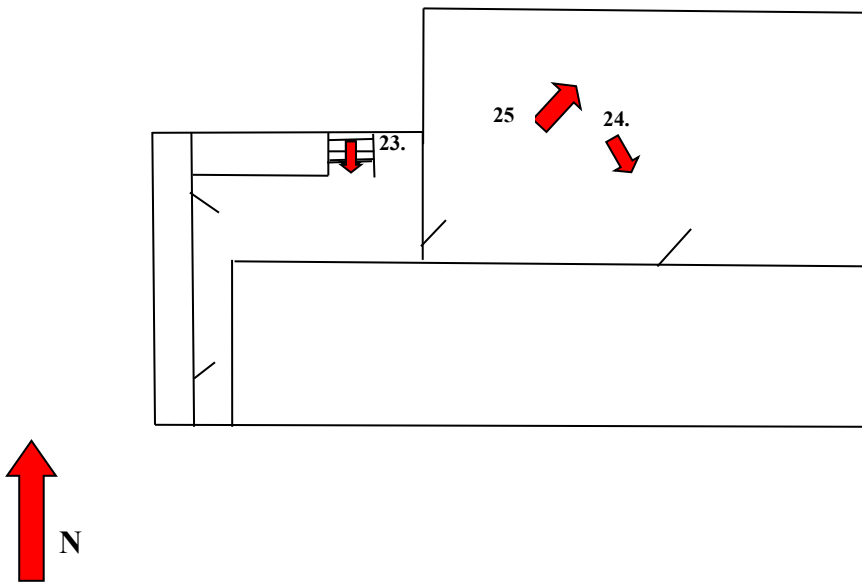
Floor Plan: 2nd Floor – Keyed with photos (not to scale)



Lake County Courthouse
Name of Property

Lake County, Tennessee
County and State

Floor Plan: Basement plan with keyed photos: basement is under the west elevation of the 1st story addition.



DRAFT

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Lake County Courthouse & Jail
----- Name of Property
Lake County, Tennessee
----- County and State
N/a
----- Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number ____ Page 28

The N.R. Continuation Sheet should be used for additional supporting documentation such as historic photographs, maps, and addendum documentation. You may also imbed supporting documentation and/or images within the text of Sections 7 and 8.

Property Owner(s):

(This information will not be submitted to the National Park Service, but will remain on file at the Tennessee Historical Commission)

Name Lake County; Danny Cook, Lake County Mayor

Street &
Number 229 Church St. Telephone 731-253-7382

City or Town Tiptonville State/Zip TN/38079



1 OF 25



2 OF 25



3 OF 25



4 OF 25



5 OF 25



6 OF 25



7 OF 25



8 OF 25



9 OF 25



10 OF 25



11 OF 25



12 OF 25



13 OF 25



14 OF 25



15 OF 25



16 OF 25



17 OF 25



18 OF 25



19 OF 25



20 OF 25



21 OF 25



22 OF 25



23 OF 25



24 OF 25



25 OF 25