

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

DRAFT

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 Morgan County Courthouse
Other names/site number N/A
Name of related multiple property listing Historic County Government Facilities in Tennessee, ca. 1770-2025 (formerly Historic County Courthouses in Tennessee, 1865-1945)
(Remove "N/A" if property is part of a multiple property listing and add name)

2. Location

Street & Number: 415 North Kingston
City or town: Wartburg State: Tennessee County: Morgan
Not For Publication: ☐ N/A Vicinity: ☐ N/A Zip: 37887

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 or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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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	
1	0	buildings
0	1	sites
0	2	structures
3	6	objects
4	9	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/ courthouse

GOVERNMENT/ government office

RECREATION AND CULTURE/
monument/marker

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/ courthouse

GOVERNMENT/ government office

RECREATION AND CULTURE/ monument/marker

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS / Colonial Revival

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS / Classical Revival

LATE VICTORIAN / Romanesque

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

WOOD; BRICK; STONE/sandstone; METAL/steel;
METAL/aluminum; CONCRETE; SYNTHETICS/vinyl

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Morgan County Courthouse is located at 415 North Kingston Street in Wartburg, Tennessee, and was completed in 1904. Knoxville architect W. Chamberlain & Company drafted plans for the courthouse and it was constructed by W. R. Harper. The original 1904 courthouse exterior displays Colonial Revival influences with Classical Revival and Romanesque Revival elements. An addition was constructed along the north elevation in 1959, designed by Morton & Sweetser. Emory & Richards served as the contractor for the addition. Three more additions were made, one in 1998 and two in 2008. The courthouse lawn contains various objects and structures, including three contributing objects, six noncontributing objects, two noncontributing structures, and one noncontributing site.

Site and Setting

The Morgan County Courthouse is centrally located in downtown Wartburg, occupying an entire city block within the central commercial business district. The block is almost entirely enclosed by a wrought iron

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fence set onto a low stone wall (ca. 1912, contributing); entrances through the fence are marked by paired brick pillars. The courthouse property features open lawns with mature trees and landscaping, a gazebo in the southeast corner (1996, noncontributing), and a small shelter in the northwest corner (2019, noncontributing). Various memorials, a historic marker, and a flagpole are clustered at the historic primary (south) entrance. Sidewalks provide access from the street through openings in the fence located to the west, south, and east; there is a significant gap in the fence on the north side, approximately the width of the north additions. The courthouse property is surrounded by a mixture of public and commercial buildings, mostly of early twentieth century and mid-twentieth-century construction.

The NRHP-listed circa 1908 Tanner Store (Reference #: SG100001369; listed 2017) is located approximately 200 feet northeast of the courthouse at the northeast corner of the intersection of Kingston Street and Court Street. The circa 1880 NRHP-listed Wartburg Presbyterian Church (Reference #: 13000952; listed 2013) is located approximately 600 feet to the southeast at the southeast corner of the intersection of Kingston Street and Spring Street.

Morgan County Courthouse, 1904 – Contributing Building

Exterior

The Morgan County Courthouse is oriented south, facing Main Street, and features an irregular plan. It is bounded to the south by Main Street, to the east by Kingston Street, to the north by Court Street, and to the west by Maiden Street. The original 1904 portion of the courthouse is two-and-a-half stories, and four concrete block additions are located to the north: a 1959 three-story addition, a 1998 one-story addition, and two 2008 three-story additions. All additions feature a brick veneer coordinating with the original 1904 masonry structure. All windows feature concrete sills and are filled with replacement one-over-one, double-hung vinyl sashes featuring faux muntins to mimic the original two-over-two, double-hung wood sashes that once adorned the 1904 building. All windows were replaced sometime between 2008 and 2011.

The original 1904 portion of the courthouse is of masonry construction featuring an irregular bond, is set on a sandstone foundation, and features a sandstone skirt capped with a protruding stone belt course. The stone belt course is of a different hue at the first story windowsills, highlighting the stone sills. The building features corner towers each sheltered by pyramidal roofs and the central mass is sheltered by a hipped roof. The roof is sheathed in corrugated sheet metal. Historically, numerous brick chimneys pierced the roof; these were removed sometime between 1945 and 1975. The entire roofline features replacement vinyl corbels. A character-defining wood clock and bell tower is centrally located on the hipped roof at the ridgeline and features pediments, arched moldings, and keystones at the openings. The clock and bell tower contains a 900-pound cast-iron bell fabricated in 1904 by I.T. Verdin Company of St. Louis. The internal clockworks are notably unique, believed to be one of only two like it in the world.¹ Windows are arched and feature three- and four-course arched corbelled brick lintels. Second story windows, excepting those on the projecting corners, feature fixed transoms. A corbelled brick belt course encircles the original building at the second floor windowsill level; the stone windowsills interrupt the brick belt course. The corner towers feature corbelled brick belt courses at the first and second floor window lintel level, which are arched to follow the window openings.

¹ Robin Conover, "The Hands of Time," *The Tennessee Magazine*, December 1998, 16-19.

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There are a total of four concrete block additions featuring brick veneers emanating from the north elevation of the original 1904 building footprint. The 1959 three-story, irregular plan addition is clad with a brick veneer with a common bond featuring a Flemish bond every sixth course. It is sheltered by a hipped roof sheathed in corrugated sheet metal; portions to the west and south are sheltered by flat roofs featuring parapets. Historically, the 1959 addition was entirely sheltered by a flat roof featuring parapets and an interior brick chimney. Windows were originally filled with three-light central-awning sashes. The roof was altered sometime between the 1970s and 2008; the brick chimney was replaced with a metal chimney, likely at the time of the roof alteration.

The 1998 irregular plan, one-story addition extends from the east elevation of the 1959 addition and the north elevation of the original 1904 building. It features a running bond brick veneer and is sheltered by a low-pitched gable roof sheathed in corrugated sheet metal. It was originally sheltered by a flat roof; this roof was replaced in 2024. Two 2008 three-story additions were constructed in 2008 on both the north elevation of the original 1904 building and the northwest corner of the 1959 addition providing interior stairwells; the former also contains an elevator. Both of these additions are sheltered by flat roofs and feature a brick veneer with a common bond featuring a Flemish bond every sixth course.

Façade (South Elevation)

The Morgan County Courthouse is oriented south and its façade faces Main Street. The façade is comprised only of the original 1904 building and features nine bays. The end bays (first and ninth) are located on the protruding corner towers. The façade is nearly symmetrical with the exception of infilled windows piercing the first first-story bay and the third second-story bay. An engraved brick walkway provides access to the primary entry, and multiple objects are located on or adjacent to the walkway, each of which are discussed individually below.

The primary entry is accessed via a centrally located partial-width concrete portico sheltered by a shed roof supported by four wood columns set on concrete pillars. An arched opening featuring brick corbelling provides access to the recessed entryway containing a double-leaf entry filled with replacement two-light metal doors featuring three-light sidelights and a two-light transom. A marble plaque reflecting the construction date and details is installed within the recessed entryway on the right (east) side. All other first story bays are pierced with windows. The first, second, seventh, eighth, and ninth second story bays are also pierced with windows. The third bay is pierced by an infilled window and the fourth and sixth second story bays are without fenestration. The central (fifth) second story bay, located above the primary entry, is filled with paired windows featuring transoms. This opening previously contained a double-leaf entry providing access to a deck above the portico featuring a railing. This paired window is not arched, unlike the other windows on the original 1904 building.

West Elevation

The west elevation consists of the 2008 three-story addition and the 1959 three-story addition at left (north) and the original 1904 building at right (south). The west elevation reveals the 1959 addition's ell. The west elevation of the 2008 addition is without fenestration. The northern (left) west elevation of the 1959 addition has three bays; all are pierced by paired windows on each story. The south elevation of the 1959 addition has two bays, the western bay is pierced by a single window at each story and the eastern bay is pierced by

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paired windows at each story. The southern (right) west elevation of the 1959 addition has two bays; all are pierced by a window on each story.

The west elevation of the 1904 building features five bays. The first story central bay is pierced by an arched opening featuring brick corbelling and accessing a recessed entryway. The entryway accesses a double-leaf entry filled with a pair of replacement two-light metal doors featuring three-light sidelights and a two-light fixed transom. All other first story bays are pierced by windows; the fifth (south) window is infilled. The second story bays are also pierced by windows; the central bay is pierced by two windows. A sign is located adjacent to the sidewalk accessing the entry, discussed further below.

North Elevation

The north (rear) elevation consists of the 1998 one-story addition at left (east), the 1959 three-story addition at center, and the 2008 three-story addition affixed to the northwest corner of the 1959 addition. The 2008 three-story addition affixed to the north elevation of the original 1904 building and portions of the 1904 building are visible above the 1998 one-story addition.

The north elevation of the 1998 one-story addition features four bays. The first three bays are pierced by windows and the fourth (westernmost) bay is pierced by a single-leaf entry filled with a full-light metal door sheltered by a polycarbonate canopy awning supported with aluminum support brackets.

The north elevation of the 1959 addition features three bays. The first story is pierced by a window at left (east) and a double-leaf entry at center; the western bay is without fenestration on the first story. The entry is filled with a pair of full-light metal doors and is sheltered by a flat-roof supported by squared brick columns. Above the entry, a sign reads "IN GOD WE TRUST."

The north elevation of the 2008 addition is pierced by a single-leaf entry filled with a metal door. The north elevation of the 2008 addition is otherwise without fenestration.

East Elevation

The east elevation is comprised of the original 1904 building at left (south), the 2008 three-story addition affixed to the north elevation of the original 1904 building at center, and the 1998 one-story addition at right (north); the second and third stories of the 1959 three-story addition are also visible behind the one-story addition.

The 1904 portion of the east elevation features five bays. The first story central bay is pierced by an arched opening featuring brick corbelling and accessing a recessed entryway. The entryway accesses a double-leaf entry filled with a pair of replacement two-light metal doors featuring three-light sidelights and a two-light fixed transom. All other first story bays are pierced by windows. The second story bays are also pierced by windows; the central bay is pierced by two windows.

The east elevation of the 2008 addition is set back from the east elevation of the 1904 building by a distance of one bay, revealing a second story window. The first story of the 2008 addition is pierced by a single-leaf entry filled with a metal door. The east elevation of the 2008 addition is otherwise without fenestration. The north elevation of the addition is without fenestration.

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A recessed entry to the 1998 one-story addition emanates from the 2008 addition. The double-leaf entry is filled with a pair of full-light metal doors and is sheltered by an aluminum awning. The south elevation of the 1998 one-story addition is pierced by a single window. The east elevation of the one-story addition is pierced by a single-leaf entry filled with a metal door and sheltered by a polycarbonate canopy awning supported with aluminum support brackets. The entry opens onto a concrete pad. A window pierces the one-story east elevation just north (right) of the entry. The gablefield is clad with crimped metal paneling.

The 1959 three-story addition extends above the one-story addition, revealing the second and third stories. There are four bays, the southernmost of which (at left) is recessed and above the recessed entryway to the one-story addition discussed above. The second and third stories mirror one another in each bay. The first, second, and fourth bays are pierced by paired windows; the third bay, central on the primary mass, is pierced by three ribbon windows.

Interior

The historic primary entrance to the Morgan County Courthouse is on the façade (south elevation). Today a primary entrance is indiscernible as numerous entrances provide more convenient access to various portions of the building as needed. The south exterior entry opens into a full-length hallway traveling north through the building and terminating at the additions on the north elevation. This north-to-south hallway intersects a full-length east-to-west hallway that terminates at the exterior entries on the east and west elevations, respectively. The hallways feature replacement vinyl flooring, a drop ceiling filled with acoustical and light panels, and plaster walls featuring a chair rail. Recessed single-leaf entries pierce the walls of the east and west portions of the hallway, providing access to offices. Most of these single-leaf entries are filled with flush wood doors featuring a half-lights, some of which have been adapted as transaction windows. One single-leaf entry is filled with a six-panel wood door featuring three lights.

The various first floor offices within the original portion of the building have received several alterations, including various styles of replacement flooring (including vinyl, tile, and carpeting), the addition of services counters, drop ceilings filled with acoustical and lighted panels, wainscoting, and additional drywall denoting closet and storage space. Three original vaults remain, featuring original metal security doors. The ceiling in the Register of Deeds vault, located near the southeast corner of the building, reveals the original corrugated metal barrel ceiling.

Moving north into the additions, the north hallway features two modern single-leaf entries piercing the west wall and an opening piercing the east wall. These single-leaf entries access maintenance rooms and are filled with flush metal doors, the northern of which is oversized. The opening to the east provides access to a small elevator lobby. The elevator lobby features drywall and exposed concrete block. A single-leaf emergency exit pierces the east wall of the elevator lobby providing access to the enclosed fire escape stairwell, one of two 2008 additions. Moving north, the hallway is interrupted by a centrally located half-width wall which is the original exterior. This wall is flanked by single-leaf entries filled with matching metal doors featuring one light. This portion of the hallway features painted exposed brick walls. The east wall is characterized by exterior features, such as arches and brick corbelling. The north side of the half-width wall is comprised of the original exterior, including the limestone skirt. Double-leaf entries pierce both the west and east sides of the hallway. The west entry is filled with a pair of flush metal doors; the doors have been removed from the east entry.

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The east opening accesses a foyer to the one-story 1998 addition. This foyer is also accessed by an exterior entry that is currently unused. A double-leaf entry filled with a pair of full-light metal doors opens into the primary space. This addition features linoleum flooring, wainscoting, and a drop ceiling filled with acoustical and lighted panels. The primary space features two exposed metal support poles and provides access to three offices within the addition.

Across the hall from the one-story addition, the west double-leaf entry accesses the 1959 three-story addition. The addition is characterized throughout its three floors by vinyl flooring, exposed painted concrete block walls, and drop ceilings filled with lighted and/or acoustical panels. Some third floor rooms lack drop ceilings. Accessible ramps feature carpeting. Single-leaf entries are filled with flush metal doors, some featuring one or three lights. A few entries feature replacement doors. The addition features exposed conduit and piping throughout.

The second floor is accessed by a central stairway located within the 1959 addition. The stairway featured metal stairs, landings with vinyl flooring, and exposed metal ceilings. The courtroom, the primary space on the second floor, features carpeting, partial height walls with wainscoting, a drop ceiling filled with acoustical panels, and a stone accent wall, covering the paired windows piercing the façade above the portico. Wood columns support the original courtroom balcony which has been enclosed and now provides storage.

Secondary spaces on the second floor of the original building are located east, north, and west of the courtroom and are accessed by single-leaf entries filled with six-panel wood doors. The original building's half-story is mostly comprised of the courtroom's high-bay and the balcony storage. Additional storage and maintenance spaces to the east and west of the courtroom were finished at an unknown date.

The second 2008 fire escape stairwell addition is located on the north side of the 1959 addition. Both 2008 fire escape additions feature concrete and metal stairs, metal railings and handrails, exposed concrete block walls, and concrete landings. Where the east fire escape addition meets the original building, the original exterior brick wall and its features are exposed, including infilled arched windows with corbelled brick lintels.

Perimeter Fence, circa 1912 – Contributing Object

A wrought iron fence set on a low, rough-cut sandstone wall encloses the majority of the courthouse property. Entrances through the fence at the west, south, and east are adorned with pairs of brick pillars featuring concrete caps. The wrought iron fence is characterized by a hoop and finial design and features spires topped with finials. Some of the spires are set into concrete blocks which were likely added only to those spires showing deterioration of the wrought iron at an unknown date.

Historic records and archival photographs indicate the fence was installed in 1912, replacing an earlier wood fence.² Approximately 100 feet of the fence has been removed from the north side of the property along Court Street, likely during construction of the 1959 rear addition and later additions to the north side of the

² Libbie Adams, Ruth Garrett, Barbara Langley, Jean Pollards, and Melba Wilson. *Pictorial History of Morgan County, Volume 1: Business and Industry*. (Wartburg: Morgan County Genealogical and Historical Society, 2021), 262.

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property. A comparison of archival photographs suggests the brick pillars at the west, south, and east entrances were added later, by the 1940s.

The perimeter fence was added to the property less than a decade after completion of the courthouse building and exhibits intentional architectural design. The fence has received alterations over the years, all of which occurred within the period of significance, and it retains integrity of location, setting, materials, design, workmanship, feeling, and association. As such, the perimeter fence is a contributing object to the Morgan County Courthouse.

“George Frederick Gerding” Historic Marker, 1974 – Contributing Object

A Tennessee Historical Commission (THC) Historical Marker titled “George Frederick Gerding” (Marker 1F 31) is located approximately 20 feet south of the courthouse’s south elevation along the public sidewalk providing access to the south entrance.

The cast aluminum marker is supported by a steel post set directly into the ground. The marker includes the Tennessee Three-Star symbol, the marker number (1F 31), and the narrative reads: “Born in Germany in 1800, he became a successful businessman after moving to New York. He was decorated by Belgium King Leopold I for establishing the first ship line between Antwerp and New York. He was U.S. Consul to Baden-Baden 1845-47. Acquiring 300,000 acres of land, he established the East Tennessee Land Colonization Co. for Swiss, German, and French immigrants. In 1844 he founded Wartburg, and gave land for the town square, a church, and a cemetery. He died in 1884..” Below the narrative the marker includes “Tennessee Historical Commission.”

This marker was installed in February 1974 and an unveiling ceremony was held in March that year. Numerous descendants of Gerding traveled to Wartburg to attend the ceremony, as well as West Germany’s consul general Ronald H. Gottlieb who traveled from Atlanta, as well as local historians, politicians, and the Gail A. Yater Central High School band.³

The marker is an example of an object celebrating local history and is a remaining vestige of a public event held on the courthouse grounds. The historic marker remains in its original location and has not been altered. As such, the marker retains integrity and is considered a contributing object to the Morgan County Courthouse.

Bicentennial All Wars Memorial, 1976 – Contributing Object

A memorial to Morgan County’s veterans of all wars is located approximately 80 feet south of the courthouse’s south elevation in the middle of the sidewalk near the south entrance to the courthouse grounds.

The granite memorial consists of three upright granite tablets set on a thick rectangular granite base featuring rock pitch sides. The tablets feature flat polished tops and polished sides. The center tablet is approximately three times the height of the side tablets. The center tablet reads: “Erected in grateful tribute to the soldiers of all wars and dedicated to the memory of those who paid the Supreme Sacrifice.” Toward the bottom of the

³ “Marker to Wartburg Founder is Erected,” *The Knoxville News-Sentinel*, Knoxville, Tennessee, February 10, 1974; “Gerding, German Immigrant, To Be Honored Today,” *The Knoxville News-Sentinel*, Knoxville, Tennessee, March 17, 1974.

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center table it reads: "Bicentennial 1776 – 1976." The tablet at left (west) reads: "For God and Country," and the tablet at right (east) reads "Lest We Forget." These texts are mirrored on the north side of the memorial.

The Bicentennial All Wars Memorial was installed as part of Morgan County's United States Bicentennial celebrations in 1976. It is an example of an object celebrating local history and is a remaining vestige of a public event held on the courthouse grounds. The memorial remains in its original location and has not been altered. As such, the marker retains integrity and is considered a contributing object to the Morgan County Courthouse.

State of Tennessee Bicentennial Gazebo, 1996 – Noncontributing Structure

A wood gazebo is located in the southeast corner of the courthouse property, approximately 80 feet southeast of the courthouse building. The gazebo is accessed by two sidewalks. One sidewalk is adorned with engraved bricks, presumably engraved with the names of those that donated funding for the gazebo or memorials made by the donors. This sidewalk terminates at a set of concrete steps on the courthouse-facing (southeast) side of the gazebo. The other sidewalk accesses a concrete ramp flanked by wood railings on its north side.

A metal sign supported by a metal post and set into bricks adjacent to the stairs displays the State of Tennessee Bicentennial Celebration (1796-1996) logo and reads: "Morgan County Bicentennial Gazebo; Dedicated June 1, 1996; Morgan County Bicentennial Committee: Bill Hunter, Lois Ann Scroggins, Susie Kries, A. B. Freytag, Donald Todd, Jean Pollard, June Newport, Bill Murray, Russell Griffith, Judy Justice, Jeanette Powers, Tommy Kilby; Morgan Countians working together for a better future for all our generations to come."

The octagonal gazebo rests on a brick foundation and features concrete decking. It is sheltered by a belcast roof sheathed in corrugated metal sheeting and features a cupola with louvered openings. The posts are set on round concrete and brick piers. The gazebo is characterized by decorative elements, such as geometric balusters and braces as well as a basketweave brick bond foundation.

The gazebo is considered noncontributing as it does not meet the 50-year threshold and was not installed during the period of significance.

Flagpole, circa 1998 – Noncontributing Object

A flagpole is located approximately 20 feet south of the courthouse's south elevation in the middle of the sidewalk accessing the entrance. The flagpole is comprised of a metal pole mounted onto the sidewalk. A metal ball adorns the top of the pole.

The flagpole is considered noncontributing as it does not meet the 50-year threshold and was not installed during the period of significance.

World War I Casualties Memorial, 1999 – Noncontributing Object

A memorial to Morgan County's World War I casualties is located approximately 15 feet south of the courthouse's south elevation near the pedestrian sidewalk and west of the courthouse entrance. The memorial is paired with the World War II memorial discussed below and both are located within a small hardscaped

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footprint consisting of landscaping stones contained by a paver perimeter. A small flagpole is set into the ground between the two memorials. The granite memorial was installed in 1999.

The upright memorial consists of a tablet featuring a flat top and is set on a rectangular granite base. The sides and top are rock pitch. The memorial reads: "World War I Casualties," followed by a list of names in alphabetical order by surname in a single column. The names include: Jessie Brannon, Martin C. Brown, Joe Carson, John Daughtery, John W. Fletcher, Harrison Jackson, Ernest Johnson, Thomas R. Jordan, George Kennedy, Joe Nance, A.C. Peters, Daniel Pitman, Isham Robbins, Walter Swack, and Oscar Williams.

The memorial is considered noncontributing as it does not meet the 50-year threshold and was not installed during the period of significance.

World War II Casualties Memorial, 1999 – Noncontributing Object

A memorial to Morgan County's World War II casualties is located approximately 10 feet south of the courthouse's south elevation near the pedestrian sidewalk and west of the courthouse entrance. The memorial is paired with the World War I memorial discussed above and both are located within a small hardscaped footprint consisting of landscaping stones contained by a paver perimeter just west of the sidewalk. A small flagpole is set into the ground between the two memorials. The granite memorial was installed in 1999.

The upright memorial consists of a tablet featuring a flat top and is set on a rectangular granite base. The sides and top are rock pitch. The memorial reads: "World War II Casualties," followed by a list of names divided into two columns. The first column includes: Carl C. Aikens, Wilburn Bardill, George Baughman Jr., Rex Dale Boardman, Amos Bosley, William R. Brock Jr., Elzie Brown, Edward Ray Bunch, J.L. Byrd Jr., Walter Byrd, George W. Clark, Marvin Cromwell, Arthur Cross, Edd Czarney, Burl Duncan, Julian Evans, Walter Fairchilds, Raymond A. Francis, Maryville R. Galloway, Charles Griffith, Albert Hall, Boyd Hall, Bruce Hamby, Fred Hampton, Ernest Hargis, Norman Hawn, Hubert C. Hunt, Kenneth Hurtt, Daniel Lee Jacks, Horace Jackson, Covely Jones, William H. Kreis, and Egbert Larue. The second column includes: Kenneth Larue, Eugene Laymance, Otho Liles, W.M. Albert Litton, Walter G. Maden, Leslie Matherson, Eugene Mayton, Willie O. McCartt, Charles W. McDaniel, Robert H. McGill, David E. McPeters, Fredrick O. Melhorn, John Morgan, Arnold Morton, W.M. Kerney Murrey, Leon David Pemberton, G.W. Pennington Jr., Clay Phillips, Hobert T. Price, Nelson Rich, Fred M. Rockwell, Willard C. Russell, Willis H. Russell, Clyde Seabolt, Stanley Snow, Chas E. Venable, Roy E. Vitatoe, William R. Webb, Wilbur R. Welch, Milton Whaley, John E. Woods, T.J. Wormsley, and John Franklin Morgan.

The memorial is considered noncontributing as it does not meet the 50-year threshold and was not installed during the period of significance.

Korean War Casualties Memorial, 1999 – Noncontributing Object

A memorial to Morgan County's Korean War casualties is located approximately 10 feet south of the courthouse's south elevation near the pedestrian sidewalk and east of the courthouse entrance. The memorial is paired with the Vietnam casualties memorial discussed below and both are located within a small hardscaped footprint consisting of landscaping stones contained by a paver perimeter. A small flagpole is set into the ground between the two memorials. The granite memorial was installed in 1999.

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The upright memorial consists of a tablet featuring a flat top and is set on a rectangular granite base. The sides and top are rock pitch. The memorial reads: "Korean War Casualties," followed by a list of names in a single column. The names include: Charles Ashley, Walter C. Haag, Lester Ward, Rueben W. Freytag, Dean Johnson, Raymond C. Lamance, Frank Watson, and George Walls.

The memorial is considered noncontributing as it does not meet the 50-year threshold and was not installed during the period of significance.

Vietnam Casualties Memorial, 1999 – Noncontributing Object

A memorial to Morgan County's Vietnam casualties is located approximately 15 feet south of the courthouse's south elevation near the pedestrian sidewalk and east of the courthouse entrance. The memorial is paired with the Korean War casualties memorial discussed above and both are located within a small hardscaped footprint consisting of landscaping stones contained by a paver perimeter. A small flagpole is set into the ground between the two memorials. The granite memorial was installed in 1999.

The upright memorial consists of a tablet featuring a flat top and is set on a rectangular granite base. The sides and top are rock pitch. The memorial reads: "Vietnam Casualties," followed by a list of names in a single column. The names include: Rexie L. Armes, David W. Holmes, Robert A. Lovelace, Donald R. Mathis, Dennis W. Vaughn, John Douglas Ward, Clarence Barnes, and Kirby L. Hamby.

The memorial is considered noncontributing as it does not meet the 50-year threshold and was not installed during the period of significance.

Engraved Brick Walkways, 1999 – Noncontributing Site

The primary (south) entrance is accessed by an engraved brick walkway. The portion of the walkway surrounding the 1976 All Wars Veterans Memorial is characterized by a chevron brick pattern. Bricks engraved with names, dates, and memorials line the walkway.

A metal marker is set into the concrete sideway at the base of the ca. 1998 flagpole. The marker reads "Morgan County C Club: Bill T. Hunter, President; John Monroe, Vice President; Carla Trotter, Secretary; A. B. Freytag, Treasurer." Below, the marker contains a full list of members in 1998-1999. At the bottom, the marker reads "Dedicated June 1999; The restoration of the historic courthouse clock and tower was made possible through the efforts of the Morgan County Citizens Club. This sidewalk is dedicated to all the individuals and families whose contributions helped in the restoration."

The engraved brick walkway is considered noncontributing as it does not meet the 50-year threshold and was not installed during the period of significance.

Shelter, 2019 – Noncontributing Structure

A gable-roof shelter is located in the northwest corner of the courthouse property, at the southeast corner of the intersection of Court Street and Maiden Street. The wood structure is accessed by a concrete ramp and features wood decking and a built-in wood bench along the west elevation. The roof is sheathed with corrugated sheet metal and the gablefields are clad with vertical wood boards. It was constructed in 2019.

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The shelter is considered noncontributing as it does not meet the 50-year threshold and was not installed during the period of significance.

Extension Office Sign, ca. 2016-2024 – Noncontributing Object

A sheet metal sign affixed to squared wood posts is located adjacent to the sidewalk accessing the west entrance to the courthouse, approximately 25 feet from the west elevation. The sign was installed sometime between 2016 and 2024, replacing a similar, earlier sign. The sign reads “Extension Office, Morgan County, 415 N. Kingston St. Room 207” and includes the University of Tennessee (UT) Extension, Institute of Agriculture, and Tennessee State University (TSU) Cooperative Extension, College of Agriculture, logos.

The sign is considered noncontributing as it does not meet the 50-year threshold and was not installed during the period of significance.

Integrity

The Morgan County Courthouse retains integrity of its location, setting, feeling, association, design, and workmanship. The courthouse remains at its original central location in Wartburg, the Morgan County Seat, adjacent to the traditional commercial downtown. The setting has seen minimal alterations since the period of significance, as most of the surrounding buildings in the immediate area date to the mid-century or earlier. Some of the surrounding buildings are also home to public services and others are early-century commercial buildings, maintaining an integrity of feeling as a rural county seat. Downtown Wartburg is not only a centralized location for governmental services, but is also a centralized location for commerce, which historically provided a critical centralized resource for residents of Morgan County. While the courthouse has seen additions over the decades, the most substantial of these (1959) dates to the period of significance (1904-1976), and this addition was constructed to house the expanding county offices and services as Morgan County evolved and grew over time. The courthouse retains integrity of association because it historically housed county offices and the county’s courts. Furthermore, the continued installation of memorials commemorating Morgan County history, its veterans, and its dedicated residents as outlined above maintains the site’s function as a public commemorative center and retains the courthouse’s association with shared heritage and social history. The courthouse retains integrity of design and workmanship, retaining numerous character-defining features, such as the clock and bell tower, the projecting corner towers, arched windows, recessed entries, brick corbelling, and sandstone belt course and skirt. Despite the additions to the rear (north) elevation, the façade (south elevation), east, and west elevations retain their original design and fenestration patterns. While some of the building’s materials have been replaced over the years, such as the vinyl windows and corbels, these replacements were made sympathetically, evidenced by muntins mimicking the original two-over-two light sashes original to the 1904 construction and vinyl corbels of similar design to the originals. The courthouse exterior continues to display the Colonial and Classical Revival styles, evidenced by the symmetrical elevations, the hipped roof, and the centered entry with portico featuring classical columns. The courthouse also reflects a Romanesque Revival influence, evidenced by the corner towers, rusticated stone skirt and belt course, brick corbelling, and arched fenestration, particularly the Syrian arched recessed entryways. Thus, the Morgan County Courthouse retains the integrity necessary to evoke its historic significance in the themes of politics/government and social history.

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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.)

- ☒ 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:

N/A

- ☐ 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

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1904 – 1976

Significant Dates

1912, 1959, 1974

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

W. Chamberlain & Company (architect)

Harper, W. R. (contractor)

Morton & Sweetser

Emory & Richards

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Morgan County Courthouse is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local significance due to its association with Politics/Government, and Social History in Morgan County. The courthouse has been the center of local county government operations since its construction and was the location of numerous local social events, as well as public remembrance. The courthouse is nominated for listing under the “Historic County Government Facilities in Tennessee, ca. 1770-2025 (formerly Historic County Courthouses in Tennessee, 1865-1976)” Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF). The Period of Significance begins in 1904 upon completion of courthouse construction. As the courthouse’s role in local government is ongoing, the Period of Significance ends at the default 50-year cutoff of 1976.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Brief History of Morgan County and Wartburg

The lands to become Morgan County primarily provided hunting grounds for Cherokee tribes prior to European American settlement. The Third Treaty of Tellico, conducted in 1805, purchased the land from the Cherokees, and permanent European American settlements began immediately afterwards. Historic records indicate that Samuel Hall was the first European American settler in the county, establishing a homestead north of present-day Wartburg circa 1807. For the first few decades, most European American settlers in Morgan County were English, Irish, and Scottish.⁴

Morgan County was formed from portions of Roane and Anderson Counties in 1817 and named for Revolutionary War and French and Indian War veteran Brigadier General Daniel Morgan. The first county seat was named Montgomery after Major Montgomery who died serving with Andrew Jackson at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend in 1814. The county commissioners were tasked to find the most convenient location for the county seat and purchase 40 acres on which to build the town. The first Montgomery was located approximately four miles west of Lansing (thirteen miles west of Wartburg) on one of the earliest roads through the county. Within just two years many citizens complained about the inconvenient location. In 1823 the Tennessee General Assembly formed Fentress County, and much of the western portion of Morgan County was reallocated. Montgomery was no longer centrally located; therefore, the county seat was moved with permission from the Tennessee Legislature circa 1825. The site selected was approximately one mile west of present-day Wartburg and located on the Emory River, referred to as “new Montgomery.” This remained the county seat until after the Civil War.⁵

Morgan County predominantly lies within the Cumberland Plateau and is known for its rugged terrain, restricting European American settlement and trade routes in the nineteenth century. Two primitive roads

⁴ Calvin W. Dickinson, *Morgan County*, Tennessee County History Series, (Memphis: Memphis State University Press, 1987), 5-11; Morgan County Heritage Book Committee and County Heritage, Inc., *The Heritage of Morgan County, Tennessee, 1817-1999*. (Walsworth Publishing Co., 1999), 1; Marjorie Waddell, Irene Wojtasiak, Margaret Freels, Ethel Freytag, W. D. Human, and Mrs. Mae McGlothlin (Bicentennial Editing Committee), *Pictorial History of Morgan County, Tennessee*. (Wartburg: Morgan County Pictorial History Committee, 1976), ii-iii.

⁵ Dickinson, *Morgan County*, 5-12; *The Heritage of Morgan County*, 1, 19; Adams, et al, *Pictorial History* (2021), 141; Waddell et. al, *Pictorial History* (1976), ii-iii.

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traversed the county in the early nineteenth century: Emory Road and Piles Turnpike Road. Use of the Emory Road declined after the designation of Walton Road as a Federal Road. The first mail route through the county was established in 1819, traveling to the Morgan County Courthouse between Clinton (Anderson County) and Burksville, Kentucky. Subsistence farming remained the primary industry in the county until the completion of the Cincinnati, New Orleans, and Texas Pacific Railway in 1880, opening the county to the timber and coal industries. For many locals, the railroad became their first employer.⁶

According to the census, there were 1,676 residents in Morgan County in 1820, shortly after its formation. Despite the substantial loss of lands to Fentress County in 1823, just 20 years later the 1840 census reported notable growth and a population of 2,660. While Morgan County grew quickly, its population remained relatively low compared to the rest of the state.⁷

Morgan County became home to two distinctive European settlements in the nineteenth century, one of which is especially relevant to this nomination. The East Tennessee Colonization Company founded a German and Swiss settlement in Morgan County in the 1840s. Spearheaded by George Frederick Gerding, a German immigrant living in New York, the settlement centered on the area to become Wartburg, the present-day county seat. Gerding is often lauded as the founder of Wartburg, and a THC historic marker was placed at the courthouse in his honor in 1974 (see above). The East Tennessee Colonization Company named the community Wartburg after a castle in Thuringia, Germany, where Martin Luther translated the Bible into German. They recruited German settlers to locate in the Wartburg area, but the new settlers arrived to find an undeveloped site, despite platting. A singular building, referred to as a “receiving house,” provided lodging for newcomers. Many of the original settlers were highly qualified professional craftsman, leading to the establishment of unusual businesses for such a remote location. While many businesses failed, those geared toward homesteading, such as millwrights, wagon builders, blacksmiths, and carpenters succeeded. The community never fully assimilated with its rural Appalachian surroundings, and German remained the dominant language. Wartburg floundered through the 1840s and 1850s, as settlers departed at a faster rate than new ones arrived. Despite these troubles, Wartburg began to overshadow Montgomery in size and offerings and established itself as a cultural center.⁸

Frederick R. Guenther a representative of the East Tennessee Colonization Company, proposed relocating the county seat from Montgomery to Wartburg in 1845. The Company offered to pay to erect a courthouse and jail on the public square in an attempt to sway the county to relocate the county seat. As reported in the *Republican Banner*, if relocation of the county seat to Wartburg was granted, Guenther “proposes on behalf of the company he represents, to erect, without expense to the county, neat and commodious buildings for a Court house and Jail; and it is believed that the citizens of the county, inasmuch as their present Court house is in a dilapidated condition, and as they are now without a Jail, will favor the proposition, and urge the

⁶ Dickinson, *Morgan County*, 9-11; Waddell et. al, *Pictorial History* (1976), ii-iii; *The Heritage of Morgan County*, 8, 302.

⁷ Dickinson, *Morgan County*, 9-11.

⁸ *The Heritage of Morgan County*, 7, 19; Klaus G. Wust, *Wartburg: Dream and Reality of the New Germany in Tennessee* (Baltimore, Maryland: The Society for the Historic of the Germans in Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland, 1963), 8-9, 22.

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propriety of the removal upon the consideration of the Legislature of the State at its next session.”⁹ The government rejected this offer.¹⁰

While less relevant to this nomination, the second distinctive European settlement, the Rugby Colony in northern Morgan County, is listed on the NRHP (NRHP-listed 1972, Reference No. 72001249). British author Thomas Hughes founded Rugby on the Scott County border in 1880. He intended the colony as an agricultural community free from the rigid British class systems so that the younger sons of English nobility could thrive, as English custom dictated the first-born son inherit the family wealth. While many colonists abandoned Rugby by the turn of the century, enough remained that the built environment was not lost to the elements. Today, Historic Rugby is a unique living community and public history site managed by a non-profit since 1966.¹¹

Due to the rugged terrain and poor farming conditions, there were few slaveholders in Morgan County throughout the nineteenth century. Like most East Tennesseans, the county residents held a strong Union loyalty, and local historians have reported that even many slaveholders in Morgan County were Union sympathizers. According to the 1850 federal census, there were 101 enslaved individuals and 28 free African Americans residing in Morgan County. For Wartburg, which remained culturally isolated and predominately inhabited by Germans at the outbreak of the Civil War, many residents felt secession to be of no relevance to their lives. Many of the German residents received newspapers in their home language from up north; therefore many of those in the Wartburg community sided with the Union. Gerding, however, sympathized with the south. As war raged on, many of the German settlers fled north, drastically decreasing the German-Swiss population. As such, Wartburg emerged from war an “American city.”¹²

As noted above, the East Tennessee Colonization Company sought the relocation of the county seat to their Wartburg settlement from the beginning. This prodding continued for years and in 1860 a formal bill was introduced to the Tennessee Legislature. It was rejected by the majority due to the lack of non-German residents. Upon the swift change in population after the Civil War, the distinct German and Swiss settlement effectively ceased to exist and sentiments shifted. The citizens of Morgan County finally voted for relocating the county seat to Wartburg on March 4, 1870, and public property at Montgomery was sold off by February 1871. Shortly after relocating the county seat, “new” Montgomery became a ghost town, signifying the county’s move to Wartburg represented an organic and likely necessary shift of population and services.¹³

History of the Morgan County Courthouse

A small log building constructed circa 1819 served as the first Morgan County Courthouse at the first Montgomery location (ca. 1817 – 1826), approximately 13 miles west of present-day Wartburg. Prior to the building’s completion, court was held at the Indian Tavern. After the county seat was relocated to the “new”

⁹ *Republican Banner*, “German Settlement in Morgan County,” Nashville, Tennessee, September 22, 1845, 2.

¹⁰ Dickinson, *Morgan County*, 20-31; *The Heritage of Morgan County*, 7; Wust, *Wartburg: Dream and Reality*, 8-9, 22.

¹¹ Historic Rugby, Inc., “History of Rugby,” 2026, accessed June 10, 2026, <https://historicrugby.org/about-us/>

¹² Waddell et. al, *Pictorial History* (1976), ii-iii; Wust, *Wartburg: Dream and Reality*, 21-22; *The Heritage of Morgan County*, 7-8.

¹³ *The Heritage of Morgan County*, 19; Wust, *Wartburg: Dreams and Reality*, 21-22; “Public Acts of Tennessee,” *Daily Press and Herald*, Knoxville, Tennessee, February 22, 1871, 3.

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Montgomery on the Emory River circa 1826, the Old Scott Inn, also known as Scott's Tavern and later as the "Ye Old Tavern," provided a venue for court affairs, as well as housed a tavern, overnight lodging, restaurant, and a shop. Records indicate this building was constructed in the early 1820s (Figure 1).¹⁴

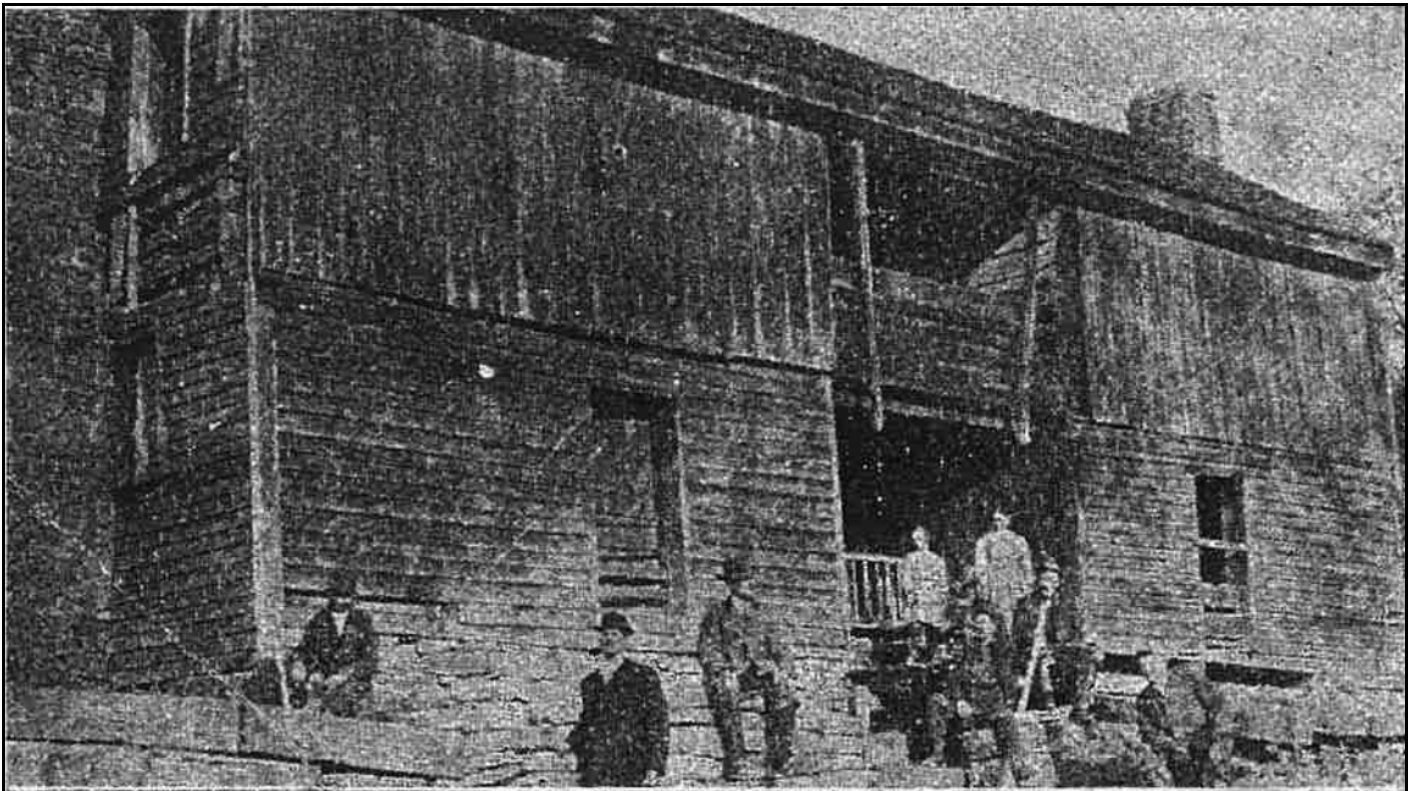


Figure 1. Undated archival photograph showing the "Ye Old Tavern," also referred to as the Old Scott Inn or Scott's Tavern, which housed court at the second Morgan County Seat at "new" Montgomery. Courtesy of the Morgan County Genealogical and Historical Society.¹⁵

While the East Tennessee Colonization Company platted the town, they left a centralized public square for the hopeful construction of county services. Upon relocating the county seat to Wartburg in 1870, the contract for the construction of a new courthouse on this dedicated Wartburg parcel was advertised to be let in June 1870. A. J. Hurtt, Johann Kreis, and D. Kreis won the contract and completed the building by May 1871. Prior to its completion, court was held in Wartburg at a private residence beginning October 3, 1870. According to some historic records, stones from the previous courthouse at Montgomery were utilized to

¹⁴ Adams et. al, *Pictorial History* (2021), 141-143; Dickinson, *Morgan County*, 9-12; "George Patching Dies; Aged Morgan Resident," *Chattanooga Daily Times*, Chattanooga, Tennessee, October 23, 1936; Jean Pollard, "Scott History Continues," *Morgan County News*, Wartburg, Tennessee, November 11, 2022, accessed June 26, 2026, https://www.themountainpress.com/morgan/opinion/scott-history-continues/article_7f02489d-d15a-559b-b808-d565c0b7a590.html

¹⁵ Adams, et al, *Pictorial History* (2021), 143.

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form the courthouse's foundation. The two-story frame courthouse housed the courtroom, a jury room, and four county offices, and the building featured a recessed two-story entry porch (Figure 2).¹⁶

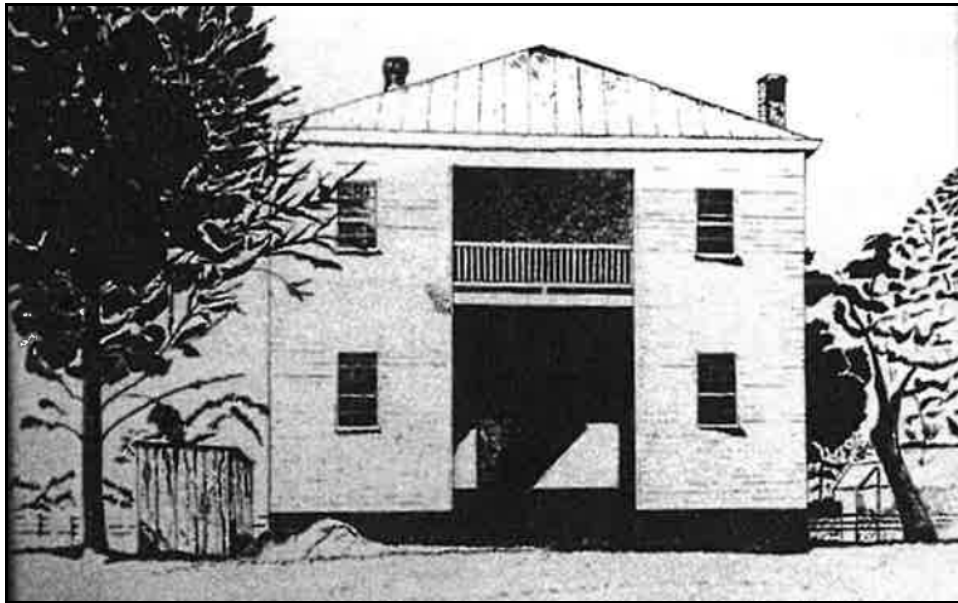


Figure 2. Sketch of the 1871 Morgan County Courthouse at Wartburg (1871-1904). Courtesy of the Morgan County Genealogical and Historical Society.¹⁷

Discussions of the need for a new Morgan County courthouse building circulated by 1900, but the proposal to construct a new courthouse building became politically contentious. Due to the rapid development of Morgan County by the turn of the century, the county was faced with numerous improvement needs, and, due to funding limitations, advocates for better roads were effectively pitted against the proponents for a new courthouse building. Repairs to the existing 1871 courthouse continued through November of 1900.¹⁸ In July 1900, *The Knoxville Sentinel* quoted an article printed in the local Wartburg newspaper, then named *Morgan County Republican*: “Back on the hills of East Tennessee, high on Cumberland plateau, in the beautiful county of Morgan, still stands the Wartburg bat-house. Stand on, old bat-house. Stand on, old bat-house, a monument to Morgan’s shiftless people, an eye-sore to nature’s surrounding world of grandeur and loveliness.”¹⁹

¹⁶ Dickinson, *Morgan County*, 42-44; Sophie and Paul Crane, *Tennessee Taproots: Courthouses of Tennessee*, (Franklin, Tennessee: Hillsboro Press, 1996 [revised edition]), 84; John W. Carpenter, *Tennessee Courthouses*, (London, Kentucky: Carpenter & Emrick, 1996), 130; Adams et. al, *Pictorial History* (2021), 141; Adams et. al, *Pictorial History* (1976), ii-iii; “Notice,” *Daily Press and Herald*, Knoxville, Tennessee, June 2, 1870, 2; “The State at Large,” *Republican Banner*, Nashville, Tennessee, May 6, 1871, 2.

¹⁷ Adams, et al, *Pictorial History* (2021), 262.

¹⁸ “Tennessee Tripods,” *Knoxville Sentinel*, Knoxville, Tennessee, February 27, 1900, 4; “State News,” *Morristown Republican*, Morristown, Tennessee, November 17, 1900, 3.

¹⁹ “Tennessee Tripods,” *Knoxville Sentinel*, Knoxville, Tennessee, July 27, 1900, 4.

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The debate raged on for approximately three years. The state bill authorizing the county to issue bonds for the construction of a new courthouse passed in February 1903. The state also authorized road bonds for Morgan County around that same time; therefore proponents for the new courthouse continued to vie for the funding.²⁰ In June 1903, a local Wartburg newspaper, *The Wartburg Clarion*, described the 1871 courthouse: “holding even one week’s term in our hovel is sufficient to disgust anybody. Our court house is a disgrace to the citizenship of Morgan county, and the building and yard are sneeringly referred to by strangers as the goat harbor and ram pasture.”²¹

In August 1903 the county officially voted against the road bond proposition. Journalists and citizens in support of funding road improvements blamed the recent letting of a contract to construct a new courthouse for the defeat.²² By July 1903 the county had officially selected the Knoxville and Birmingham, Alabama, based architectural firm W. Chamberlin & Company (also sometimes spelled as Chamberlain) to design their new courthouse building.²³ A contractor won the contract for the new courthouse in August 1903; however, this first contractor bid on plans for a concrete building and the county abandoned these plans to pursue a contract for a brick building beginning in November 1903. W. R. Harper completed construction of the Morgan County Courthouse in 1904 (Figures 3 and 4).²⁴

W. Chamberlin & Company and its principal, Walter Chamberlin, designed at least 39 county courthouses between approximately 1889 and 1911. Nine of these courthouses were constructed in Tennessee, some of which are still extant, including Morgan County’s Courthouse, the subject of this nomination, as well as the NRHP-listed Rhea County Courthouse (1891), Cumberland County Courthouse (1905), and the Fentress County Courthouse (1905). The firm also designed an extension to the Knox County Courthouse’s county courtroom in 1895.

One of Chamberlin’s earliest courthouses, the third Anderson County Courthouse (1889, non-extant) in Clinton, approximately 26 miles east of Wartburg, shared many attributes with the later constructed Morgan County Courthouse, including corner towers sheltered by pyramidal roofs and arched recessed entryways. W. Chamberlin & Company also designed the third courthouse at Huntsville in neighboring Scott County, approximately 22 miles north of Wartburg, completed in 1906 just two years after the completion of the Morgan County Courthouse. This building was strikingly similar to the original Morgan County Courthouse building, albeit constructed of stone rather than brick; it was lost to fire in 1946. It featured corner towers, arched recessed entries, a clock tower, and multiple chimneys. Many of Chamberlin’s other courthouse designs also featured corner towers with pyramidal roofs and were characterized by Romanesque and Renaissance influences.²⁵ As discussed in the Historic County Facilities MPDF, it is common for historic

²⁰ “Other Bills Passed,” *The Nashville American*, Nashville, Tennessee, February 12, 1903, 2.

²¹ “State Exchanges,” *The Knoxville Sentinel*, Knoxville, Tennessee, June 9, 1903, 4.

²² “Gen. Wright Tells Why Road Bonds Lost,” *Knoxville Sentinel*, Knoxville, Tennessee, August 7, 1903, 1; “State Exchanges,” *Knoxville Sentinel*, Knoxville, Tennessee, August 12, 1903, 4.

²³ “New Court House for Morgan County,” *Knoxville Sentinel*, Knoxville, Tennessee, July 13, 1903, 2.

²⁴ “Gen. Wright Tells Why Road Bonds Lost,” *The Weekly Sentinel*, Knoxville, Tennessee, August 12, 1903, 5; “Hotel Gossip and Personal Mention,” *Knoxville Sentinel*, Knoxville, Tennessee, November 3, 1903, 2; Carpenter, *Tennessee Courthouses*, 130; Dickinson, *Morgan County*, 87.

²⁵ Rebecca Schmitt, “Historic County Government Facilities in Tennessee, ca. 1770-2025 (formerly Historic County Courthouses in Tennessee, 1865-1945),” National Register of Historic Places – Multiple Property Documentation Form, 2026, 89, 108-109,

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courthouses to be professionally designed and include architectural features that help the building stand out within the local architectural context.²⁶ The Morgan County Courthouse is a notable example of this trend.

117; "Scott County Court House May Be Built," *Knoxville Sentinel*, Knoxville, Tennessee, August 17, 1903, 3; Society of Architectural Historians, "Rhea County Courthouse," SAH Archipedia, 2013-2025, accessed June 11, 2026, <https://sah-archipedia.org/buildings/TN-01-143-0069>; "Notice to Contractors," *The Journal and Tribune*, Knoxville, Tennessee, May 5, 1895, 10.

²⁶ Schmitt, MPDF, 170.

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Figure 3. Circa 1908 photograph showing the Morgan County Courthouse façade shortly after completion. Note the chimneys and second story deck on the façade. Courtesy of the Morgan County Pictorial History Committee.²⁷

²⁷ Waddell et. al, *Pictorial History* (1976), 8.

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Figure 4. Undated archival photograph, likely taken circa 1915, showing the north (rear) and west elevations of the Morgan County Courthouse. Courtesy of the Morgan County Genealogical and Historical Society.²⁸

The Morgan County Courthouse is historically significant under Criterion A at the local level for its association with the themes of politics/government and social history. As further established in the associated Historic County Facilities MPDF, county courthouses were an important place of local community socializing, politics, and events. The Morgan County Courthouse was no different as illustrated by the examples and historic context provided below.

The historic significance of the Morgan County Courthouse for local social history is evidenced by numerous celebrations and events over the decades (Figure 5). The courthouse is characterized by an abundant lawn, providing ample space for community celebrations over the decades. As an early example, when the United States joined the Allied Powers against Germany and the other Central Powers in April 1917, the Morgan County Courthouse served as the central public gathering point for celebrations as they bid farewell to 65 of their young men.²⁹

²⁸ Adams, et al, *Pictorial History* (2021), 263.

²⁹ Dickinson, *Morgan County*, 91

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Figure 5. Circa 1945 photograph showing an example of an unspecified gathering at the Morgan County Courthouse. Courtesy of the Morgan County Heritage Book Committee and County Heritage, Inc.³⁰

The courthouse also provided a central public location to celebrate local heritage, indicated by the placement of memorials and markers throughout the courthouse lawn as described above. Of note, Morgan County hosted an unveiling ceremony on the courthouse lawn for a THC historical marker commemorating George Frederick Gerding in 1974. One of Gerding's great-great-granddaughters, Mrs. Lewis Vaughan Blanton of Oliver Springs, spearheaded the event. More of Gerding's descendants traveled to Wartburg from all over the country and were joined by West Germany's consul general Ronald H. Gottlieb. Local historians, church leaders, state employees, and politicians spoke and the Gail A. Yater Central High School band played at the event (Figure 6).³¹

The Historic County Facilities MPDF anticipated that many courthouse nominations would incorporate not only the courthouse grounds, but various contributing resources located on those grounds. The Morgan County Courthouse site has witnessed the erection of numerous memorials and monuments over the decades. While only two of these celebratory objects installed during the period of significance are considered contributing, the "George Frederick Gerding" Historical Marker and the Bicentennial All Wars Memorial, due to the dates of their installation, the noncontributing objects also contribute to this theme. The interpretive marker and monuments at the Morgan County Courthouse celebrate the county's unique past and honor Morgan County residents lost to war. Between the varied objects located immediately adjacent to the

³⁰ *The Heritage of Morgan County*, 1.

³¹ "Marker to Wartburg Founder is Erected," *The Knoxville News-Sentinel*, Knoxville, Tennessee, February 10, 1974; "Gerding, German Immigrant, To Be Honored Today," *The Knoxville News-Sentinel*, Knoxville, Tennessee, March 17, 1974.

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courthouse building, the Morgan County Courthouse is an “interpretive space for local history through the installation of historical markers and interpretive waysides... since [it is] a centrally located place and a good place to discuss people or topics for whom there is not a more appropriate location.”³²



Figure 6. Photograph showing Glenna Ott (left) and Geraldine Blanton (right), descendants of George Frederick Gerding, at the 1974 unveiling ceremony. Courtesy of the Morgan County Genealogical and Historical Society.³³

The historic and primary function of the Morgan County Courthouse was as a location to house court proceedings. Oftentimes, these trials and hearings captured the public’s attention, locally and sometimes beyond, creating an intersection of historic significance in government and in social history. In 1924, an estimated 1,000 people from across the county attended the Patterson murder trial, “one of the most sensational in the history of Morgan County” as gossip suggested the murder was the result of a love triangle.³⁴

Some of the trials held in Morgan County garnered statewide and even nationwide attention. For example, after a hearing regarding vehicular damages was postponed in 1955, a brawl incited on the courthouse lawn resulting in a fatal injury to a woman. Numerous newspapers reported on the “free-for-all melee” and the following murder trial, making front page news in East Tennessee and as far afield as Kansas.³⁵

³² Schmitt, MPDF, 58.

³³ Adams, et al, *Pictorial History* (2021), 267.

³⁴ “Patterson Case to Jury Today,” *Chattanooga Daily Times*, Chattanooga, Tennessee, August 27, 1924, 3.

³⁵ “Woman Slain in Free-For-All at Wartburg,” *Bristol Herald Courier*, Bristol, Tennessee, August 14, 1955; “Woman is Killed in Morgan Fight,” *Chattanooga Daily Times*, Chattanooga, Tennessee, August 14, 1955; “Woman Killed in Free-for-all,” *The Wichita Eagle*, Wichita, Kansas, August 14, 1955, 1.

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Morgan County again made statewide news after a public hearing conducted by the State Department of Public Health's Division of Water Quality in 1978. The hearing represented a culmination of tensions between strip mining interests and conservationists, many of whom were members of Save Our Cumberland Mountains (SOCM). The SOCM members and other conservationists expressed concern regarding water runoff from the proposed site impacting the quality of stream and other adverse environmental effects. After the hearing, SOCM members accused miners of verbal and physical assault. This incident served as a representation of growing tensions between environmentalists and laborers that depend on such development for their livelihood, a theme characteristic of the 1970s in rural Appalachia.³⁶

In addition to trials and hearings held in the Morgan County Courthouse, the courthouse provided a venue for public meetings related to flood control improvements in 1939; Veteran Administration services in 1946; tax assistance for farmers in 1949; TVA-led development of the Emory and Obed Rivers in 1966; forest management seminars in 1970; among countless other events providing public services or seeking public input.³⁷ The Morgan County Courthouse also historically served as a collection point for humanitarian organizations, providing a central location for donations.³⁸

The Morgan County Courthouse's historic significance related to politics and government is evidenced by numerous regular and special events that took place on site. Like many courthouses, the Morgan County Courthouse served as the voting location for regular and special elections. The courthouse grounds also commonly provided a popular venue for politicking, the occurrences of which are far too numerous to list here. Some notable figures appearing across the decades included incumbent U.S. Representative James Willis Taylor and his opponent ex-Knoxville Mayor John T. O'Connor in 1936; Congressman John Jennings in 1939; Howard H. Baker in 1942 during his candidacy for Attorney General; Governor Gordon Weaver Browning in 1952; Governor Buford Ellington in 1958; Senator Estes Kefauver in 1960; and Representative Joe L. Evans in 1968, to name only a few.³⁹

Perhaps more notable are the well-attended political rallies held in the courthouse or on its ample lawn. Arthur Bruce, an unsuccessful Republican gubernatorial candidate, spoke to a crowd of 300 in 1930.⁴⁰ A crowd overflowing the courthouse into the rain-drenched lawn greeted Carroll Reece, Senate candidate, and Roy Acuff, candidate for governor and "King of Country Music," in 1948.⁴¹ Over 1,500 people cheered for

³⁶ "Strip Mine Issue Comes to Blows," *The Tennessean*, Nashville, Tennessee, October 22, 1978, 1B-3B.

³⁷ "Consider Flood Control," *Knoxville News-Sentinel*, Knoxville, Tennessee, December 17, 1939; "VA Delegate to Visit E-T Towns," *The Knoxville Journal*, Knoxville, Tennessee, June 2, 1946; "Tax Experts Offer Help to Farmers," *The Knoxville Journal*, Knoxville, Tennessee, December 29, 1949; "Emory-Obed River Booser Unit Formed," *The Knoxville News-Sentinel*, Knoxville, Tennessee, May 26, 1966, 43; "Forest Seminars Set," *The Knoxville News-Sentinel*, Knoxville, Tennessee, February 9, 1970, 24; ³⁸ "Women's Clubs Aid Needy in Morgan," *The Knoxville News-Sentinel*, Knoxville, Tennessee, February 1, 1973, 33.

³⁹ "Taylor Heard at Wartburg," *The Knoxville News-Sentinel*, Knoxville, Tennessee, October 18, 1936; "Debate Challenge Made by O'Connor," *The Knoxville Journal*, Knoxville, Tennessee, October 4, 1936; "Jennings to Speak at Wartburg Today," *The Knoxville Journal*, Knoxville, Tennessee, December 21, 1939; "Jennings Will Present Morgan County Flags," *The Knoxville Journal*, Knoxville, Tennessee, May 13, 1942; "Freedom or Crump, Says Browning: Officer Upholds Clement's Record," *Chattanooga Daily Times*, Chattanooga, Tennessee, July 19, 1952, 1-2; "Teachers Hear Ellington Plea," *The Tennessean*, Nashville, Tennessee, October 30, 1958, 2; "Taylor Papers Attached by Estes Kefauver," *Nashville Banner*, Nashville, Tennessee, July 22, 1960, 1; "Rep. Evans tours state for U.S. aid programs," *Johnson City Press*, Johnson City, Tennessee, June 3, 1968.

⁴⁰ "Bruce Sounds Party Tocsin," *Nashville Banner*, Nashville, Tennessee, October 26, 1930, 1-2.

⁴¹ "Reece Blasts Demo Charge of Isolation," *The Knoxville Journal*, Knoxville, Tennessee, October 8, 1948, 1-2.

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Governor Frank Clement on the courthouse lawn in 1954.⁴² Eight years later, in 1962, with the support and return appearance of popular musician Acuff, Clement again spoke to a crowd of about 500 people at the Morgan County Courthouse.⁴³ That same decade, over 400 Morgan Countians flooded the courthouse, spilling over into the halls, to show their support for Mrs. Howard H. Baker during her congressional campaign in 1964.⁴⁴

The Morgan County Courthouse provided a central meeting location for decades, but it also provided a location for critical county offices and services. The Morgan County Courthouse historically housed local court sessions and county offices, including the Register of Deeds, Clerk and Masters Office, County Executive Offices, County Trustee's offices, and County Clerks offices. The courthouse also historically served as a local polling location. The historic importance of rural Morgan County's courthouse is evidenced by its growth via multiple additions as well as by its continued use for all county offices.

As Morgan County continued to grow over the twentieth century, evolving modern needs inspired upgrades and expansions to the building. For example, the courthouse was one of the first buildings in Wartburg to be electrified, receiving power through a private electric power system in 1924, illustrating its heightened significance to the community.⁴⁵ Furthermore, the Morgan County Courthouse received multiple additions: a 1959 three-story addition, a 1998 one-story addition, and two 2008 three story additions. The first and largest addition to the building, made during the period of significance (1904-1976), was designed by Knoxville architectural firm Morton and Sweetser, went out for bid in 1958, and was completed in 1959 (Figures 7 and 8).⁴⁶

⁴² "Clement's 'No Tax Increase' Assertion Cheered in Dayton," *Nashville Banner*, Nashville, Tennessee, July 20, 1954, 2.

⁴³ "Clement Follows Picking, Singing," *The Commercial Appeal*, Memphis, Tennessee, July 31, 1962.

⁴⁴ "Optimism Follows Overflow Crowds Boosing Campaign," *The Knoxville Journal*, Knoxville, Tennessee, March 9, 1964, 1.

⁴⁵ Carpenter, *Tennessee Courthouses*, 130; Dickinson, *Morgan County*, 87.

⁴⁶ "To Open Bids," *The Knoxville Journal*, Knoxville, Tennessee, October 17, 1958, 23.

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Figure 7. Aerial photograph taken circa 1975 showing the Morgan County Courthouse building after the 1959 addition (at right) and before the 1998 and 2008 additions. Morgan County Courthouse; Looking Back at Tennessee Photograph Collection, 1890-1981; Accession Number: 1988-017, ID#: 10450. Courtesy Tennessee State Library & Archives.

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Figure 8. Aerial photograph taken circa 1975 showing the Morgan County Courthouse building after the 1959 addition (foreground) and before the 1998 and 2008 additions. Morgan County Courthouse; Looking Back at Tennessee Photograph Collection, 1890-1981; Accession Number: 1988-017, ID#: 10451. Courtesy Tennessee State Library & Archives.

Another notable capital campaign was the restoration of the historic clock and bell tower in 1998. Referred to as the “Tick Tock Crew,” three Brushy Mountain Correctional inmates provided the labor for the project work under a Tennessee Department of Corrections’ work program. The clock tower suffered damage from weather and termites, requiring much of the original wood materials to be replaced in-kind, and the sheet metal covering the exterior had rusted and was prone to leaks. The crew removed clock tower from the courthouse roof and temporarily relocated it to the lawn (Figure 9). The original gears and cast-iron bell were retained. Records indicate that the clockworks are one of only two in existence; the other is on display at the Smithsonian. Prior to conversion for electrical power, the clockworks required regular winding. While the

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Morgan County Courthouse clock had not sounded in years, after the restoration efforts made in 1998 the gear-driven hammer and bell again sounded each hour in Wartburg.⁴⁷

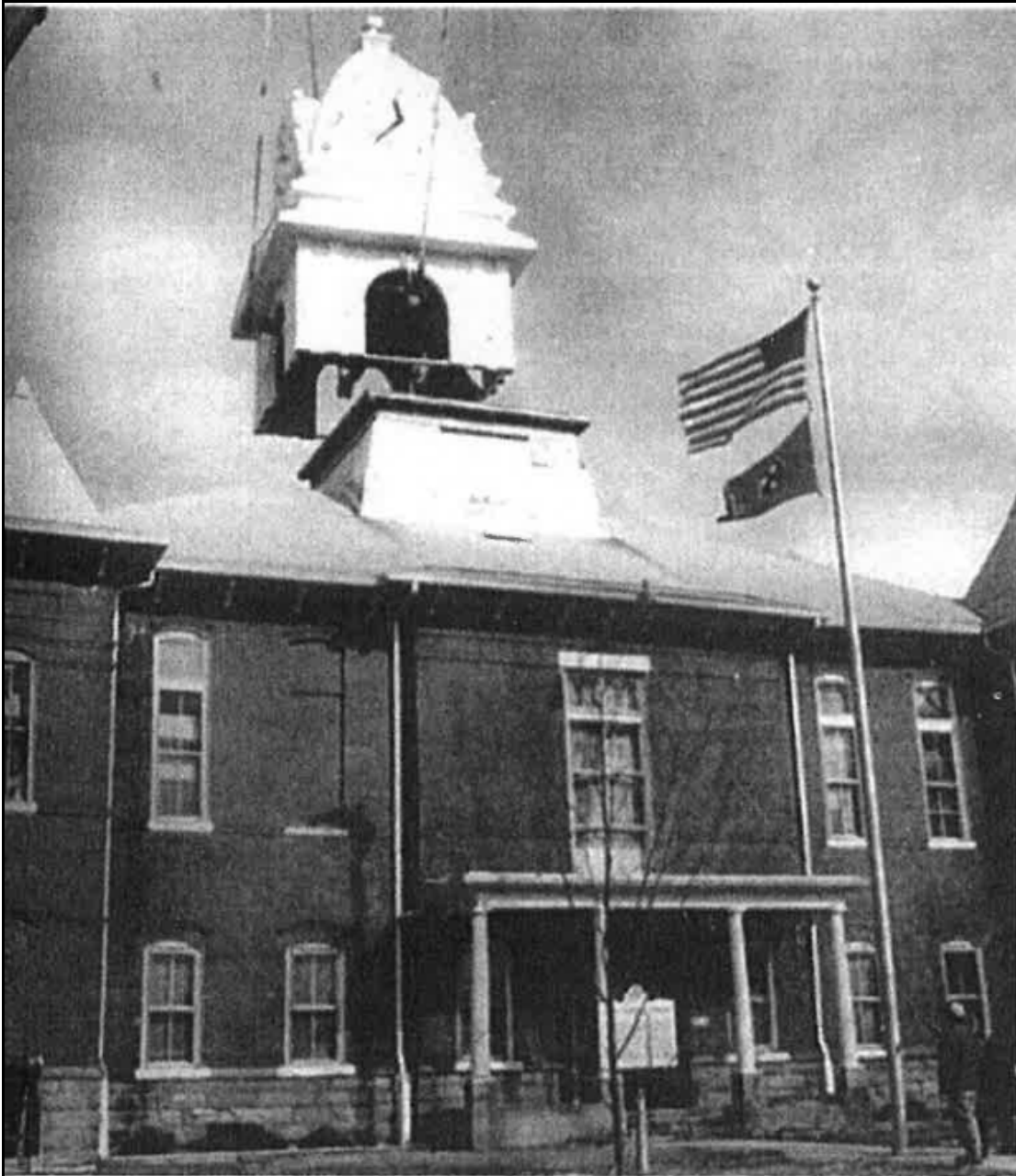


Figure 9. Removing the clock tower from the Morgan County Courthouse Roof. Courtesy of the Morgan County Heritage Book Committee and County Heritage, Inc.⁴⁸

⁴⁷ Conover, "The Hands of Time," 16-19.

⁴⁸ *The Heritage of Morgan County*, 49.

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The Morgan County Citizens' Club, known locally as the "C" Club, partnered with local government officials to lead the effort to save the clock tower. The "C" Club collected donated materials and supplies from local businesses as well as monetary donations from the community.⁴⁹ Many of those that made monetary donations are commemorated in the noncontributing engraved brick walkway exiting the south entrance (see above). This restoration project led to the transformation of a portion of the south lawn into a living symbol of Morgan County residents' dedication to their own heritage. Then Morgan County Executive Kilby said: "Folks from all over the county were here to watch them lift it off the courthouse... They were all sharing their stories about hearing the clock strike in bygone years. The bell tower and clock represent our county's heritage as no other landmark, and we want it to be here for generations to come."⁵⁰

The Morgan County Courthouse continued to serve as a central public meeting place beyond the stated period of significance, as such its significance to the public is ongoing. A notable example of the courthouse's continued historic significance in social history is a 2003 memorial service for tornado victims held on the courthouse lawn. On November 10, 2002, a tornado killed seven Morgan County residents. A crowd of approximately 200 mourners gathered for the one-year anniversary of the tragedy. A memorial plaque was installed inside the Morgan County Courthouse (Figure 10).⁵¹ A second matching memorial plaque was recently added next to this one regarding the February 6, 2025, tornado that took two lives.

Numerous public gatherings, celebrations, trials, public meetings, and political rallies similar to the examples provided above have been held there since 1976 and will undoubtedly continue into the future. The Morgan County Courthouse continues to serve the community as the central local government office, housing the county's courts and most county offices and services.



Figure 10. Memorial plaque located in the Morgan County Courthouse dedicated to the victims of the 2002 tornado.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Ibid, 19.

⁵¹ Cliff Hightower, "Still Healing," *The Knoxville News Sentinel*, November 9, 2003, A1, A16; J. Miles Cary, "East Tenn. Families remember tornado," *The Jackson Sun*, November 12, 2003, 4.

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Registration Requirements: Historic County Government Facilities in Tennessee, ca. 1770-2025

The Morgan County Courthouse meets the registration requirements of the “Historic County Government Facilities in Tennessee, ca. 1770-2025” MPDF under Property Type 2: Courthouse. The Morgan County Courthouse served as the main county building for the Morgan County government throughout the period of significance (1904-1976).

The MPDF describes the courthouse property type as a building that is centrally located, professionally designed, and the historic location of a county’s critical administrative and court functions. The courthouse is centrally located within downtown Wartburg, and Morgan County hired Knoxville architect W. Chamberlain & Company to professionally design the building, who imbedded Classical, Colonial, and Romanesque Revival architectural features, such as projecting corner towers, arched recessed entries, and brick corbelling, all of which help the courthouse stand out within Wartburg’s local architectural context. The Morgan County Courthouse historically housed critical administration offices and the county’s courts.⁵²

The MPDF also expects courthouse nominations to incorporate courthouse grounds, including monuments and memorials located on those grounds. As anticipated in the MPDF, this nomination for the Morgan County Courthouse includes three contributing objects, the perimeter fence, the “George Frederick Gerding” Historic Marker, and the Bicentennial All Wars Memorial, located on the courthouse grounds. The courthouse lawn also includes five noncontributing objects, one noncontributing structure, and one noncontributing site pertaining to shared heritage. While these are noncontributing as they were installed after the period of significance, they nonetheless reflect the continued significance of the courthouse lawn as a place for public memorialization and reflection.⁵³

The MPDF stipulates that courthouses must retain integrity to convey their significance. As the Morgan County Courthouse is being nominated under Criterion A, the MPDF suggests the most critical aspect of integrity to retain is that of association. As outlined above, the Morgan County Courthouse retains integrity of association. As the MPDF points out, alterations of public buildings is common due to their public use, and the Morgan County Courthouse has received multiple additions over the decades to house the expanding public services and governmental offices, including the most substantial addition made during the period of significance (1959). Despite changes made over time to keep up with these demands, the Morgan County Courthouse retains many historic features, including the character-defining clock tower and corner towers. Furthermore, the major floorplan and circulation routes of the original building remain mostly unchanged. Many interior materials have been replaced, including the modernization of flooring throughout the building, the installation of acoustic ceiling panels, and the installation of drywall over exterior walls. The courtroom, the primary space, received carpeting, drywall, and a faux stone inset wall behind the bench to cover the façade’s paired windows, but maintains the original footprint and access points.⁵⁴

As established by the MPDF, county courthouses are most likely to be locally significant under Criterion A, most often due to their contributions to local government/politics, social history, and/or conservation.⁵⁵ As

⁵² Schmitt, MPDF, 169-170.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ Ibid., 3.

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evidenced above in Section 8 of this nomination, the Morgan County Courthouse is historically significant within the Criterion A context outlined with the MPDF, or “Context 1: The Role of Tennessee County Governments in Local Life.” Specifically, the Morgan County Courthouse is historically significant under the themes of politics/government and social history. As such, the Morgan County Courthouse meets the registration requirements of the Historic County Government Facilities in Tennessee, ca. 1770-2025, MPDF as it is a historically significant example of a county courthouse which has provided, and continues to provide, a centralized location for critical county functions as well as a social gathering place for community events and commemorations.

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- The Knoxville Journal*. "To Open Bids." Knoxville, Tennessee. October 17, 1958.
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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):			

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.32 **USGS Quadrangle** Camp Austin 122-SE

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84:
N/A

1. Northwest Corner	Latitude: 36.105744	Longitude: -84.597992
2. Northeast Corner	Latitude: 36.105593	Longitude: -84.597209
3. Southeast Corner	Latitude: 36.104951	Longitude: -84.597385
4. Southwest Corner	Latitude: 36.105097	Longitude: -84.598170

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries correspond to the current legal parcel boundary of Morgan County Parcel 096K A 006.00. The Morgan County Courthouse parcel occupies approximately 1.32 acres, bounded by Court Street to the north, Kingston Street to the east, Main Street to the south, and Maiden Street to the west. The historic primary entrance to the Courthouse (south elevation) fronts Main Street. Secondary entrances (historically) are located along the side elevations of the original building (west and east elevations) as well as on the north and east elevations of the additions. The boundaries are depicted on the enclosed Boundary Map below.

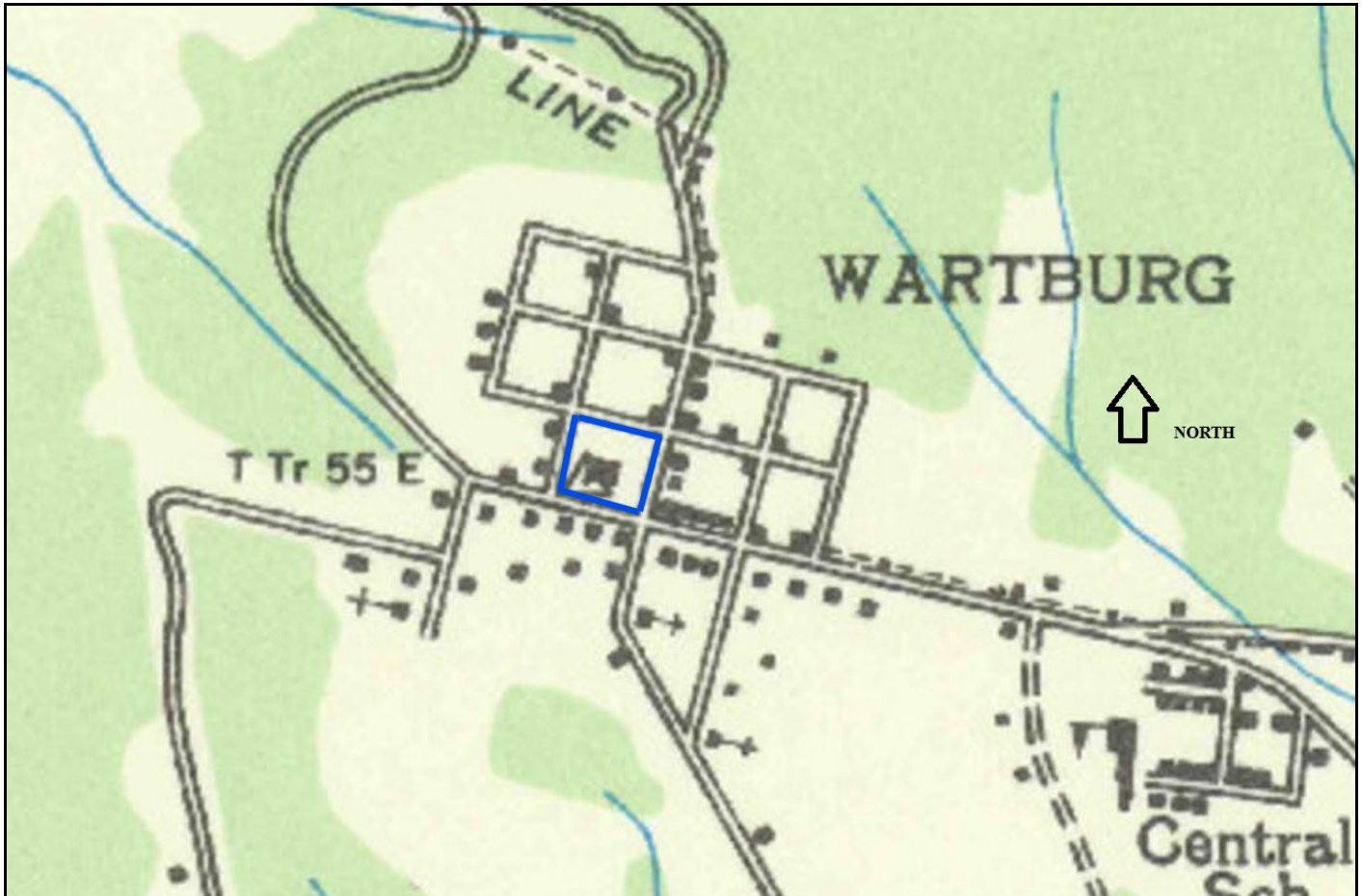
Boundary Justification

The selected boundary encloses the resources and land historically and currently associated with the Morgan County Courthouse.

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USGS Topographic Map



Portion of USGS Camp Austin Quadrangle (122-SE), Tennessee, 7.5-minute series topographic map, original scale 1:24,000, 1935, showing the location of the Scott County Courthouse property, indicated by a blue boundary (at center). North arrow included at right.

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Boundary Map



National Register boundaries are shown by the red line. Aerial imagery courtesy of Google Earth.

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11. Form Prepared By

Name	Sarah Anderson		
Organization	East Tennessee Development District		
Street & Number	P. O. Box 249	Date	July 2026
City or Town	Alcoa	Telephone	865-273-6003 x114
E-mail	sanderson@etdd.org	State	TN Zip Code 37701

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.

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Photo Log

Name of Property: Morgan County Courthouse

City or Vicinity: Wartburg

County: Morgan

State: Tennessee

Photographer: Sarah Anderson; Bret Pallotta

Date Photographed: September 29, 2025; June 15, 2026; June 23, 2026

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

1 of 39. Façade (south elevation) including contributing Bicentennial All Wars Memorial in foreground at right and contributing "George Frederick Gerding" Historic Marker at center, as well as the noncontributing engraved brick walkway, flag pole, and the World War I, World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War veteran memorials at center. Photographer facing northeast.

2 of 39. Façade (south elevation) including the contributing "George Frederick Gerding" Historic Marker at center left and noncontributing engraved brick walkway, flag pole, and the World War I, World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War veteran memorials. Photographer facing north.

3 of 39. South recessed entry, including the 1904 cornerstone. Photographer facing northeast.

4 of 39. Façade (south elevation) and east elevation. Photographer facing northwest.

5 of 39. East elevation of the original 1904 building. Photographer facing west.

6 of 39. East elevation, including the contributing perimeter fence in the foreground. Photographer facing west.

7 of 39. East and north elevations of original 1904 building, 1959 three-story addition, 1998 one-story addition, and 2008 three-story fire escape addition. Photographer facing southwest.

8 of 39. North elevation, showing 1998 and 1959 additions in foreground and 1904 building in background. Photographer facing south.

9 of 39. North elevation of one-story addition. Photographer facing southeast.

10 of 39. North and west elevations of 1959 addition, noncontributing shelter is at right. Photographer facing southeast.

11 of 39. West elevation of 1959 addition. Photographer facing southeast.

12 of 39. West elevation. Photographer facing east.

13 of 39. West elevation of original 1904 building, noncontributing extension office sign in foreground. Photographer facing east.

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- 14 of 39. Detail view of clock and bell tower. Photographer facing east.
- 15 of 39. Noncontributing State of Tennessee Bicentennial Gazebo. Photographer facing southeast.
- 16 of 39. South hallway in 1904 building. Photographer facing south.
- 17 of 39. East to west hallway in 1904 building. Photographer facing west.
- 18 of 39. North hallway in 1904 building, looking toward additions. Photographer facing north.
- 19 of 39. Example of office on first floor of 1904 building. Photographer facing west.
- 20 of 39. Example of office on first floor of 1904 building. Photographer facing northwest.
- 21 of 39. Example of a vault on the first floor of 1904 building. Photographer facing south.
- 22 of 39. Hallway connecting 1904 building, 1959 addition, and 1998 addition, showing portion of original exterior at right. Photographer facing southeast.
- 23 of 39. Foyer for 1998 one-story addition. Photographer facing northeast.
- 24 of 39. Interior of 1998 one-story addition. Photographer facing northeast.
- 25 of 39. Example of an interior entrance in the 1959 addition. Photographer facing south.
- 26 of 39. Example of a first floor hallway in the 1959 addition. Photographer facing southeast.
- 27 of 39. Second floor of 1904 building showing courtroom. Photographer facing south.
- 28 of 39. Second floor of 1904 building showing courtroom. Photographer facing northwest.
- 29 of 39. Second floor of 1904 building showing courtroom lobby. Photographer facing east.
- 30 of 39. Accessible entrance to courtroom lobby, connecting 1959 addition to 1904 building. Photographer facing north.
- 31 of 39. Example of a second floor office in the 1904 building. Photographer facing east.
- 32 of 39. Example of a second floor hallway in the 1959 addition. Photographer facing west.
- 33 of 39. Interior view of northern 2008 fire escape addition. Photographer facing west.
- 34 of 39. Open space on half story of 1904 building providing access to storage and maintenance areas. Photographer facing southwest.

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35 of 39. Interior view of eastern 2008 fire escape addition, showing original exterior of 1904 building. Photographer facing south.

36 of 39. Overview of central stairway as seen from the third floor. Photographer facing southeast.

37 of 39. Example of hallway on third floor of 1959 addition. Photographer facing southeast.

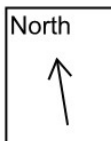
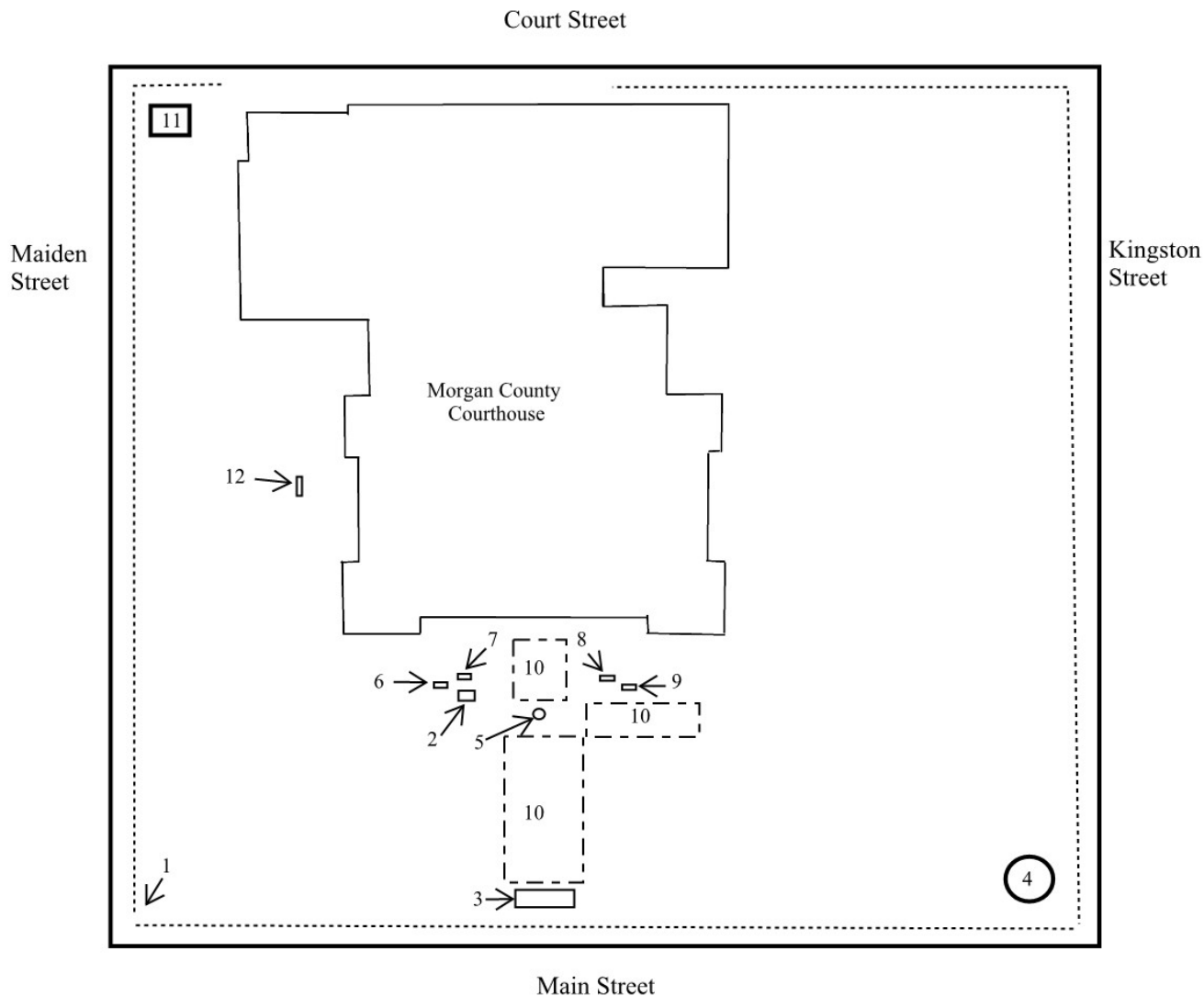
38 of 39. Example of conference room on third floor of 1959 addition. Photographer facing north.

39 of 39. Example of third floor office in 1959 addition. Photographer facing northeast.

Morgan County Courthouse
Name of Property

Morgan County, Tennessee
County and State

Site Plan: Not to scale.

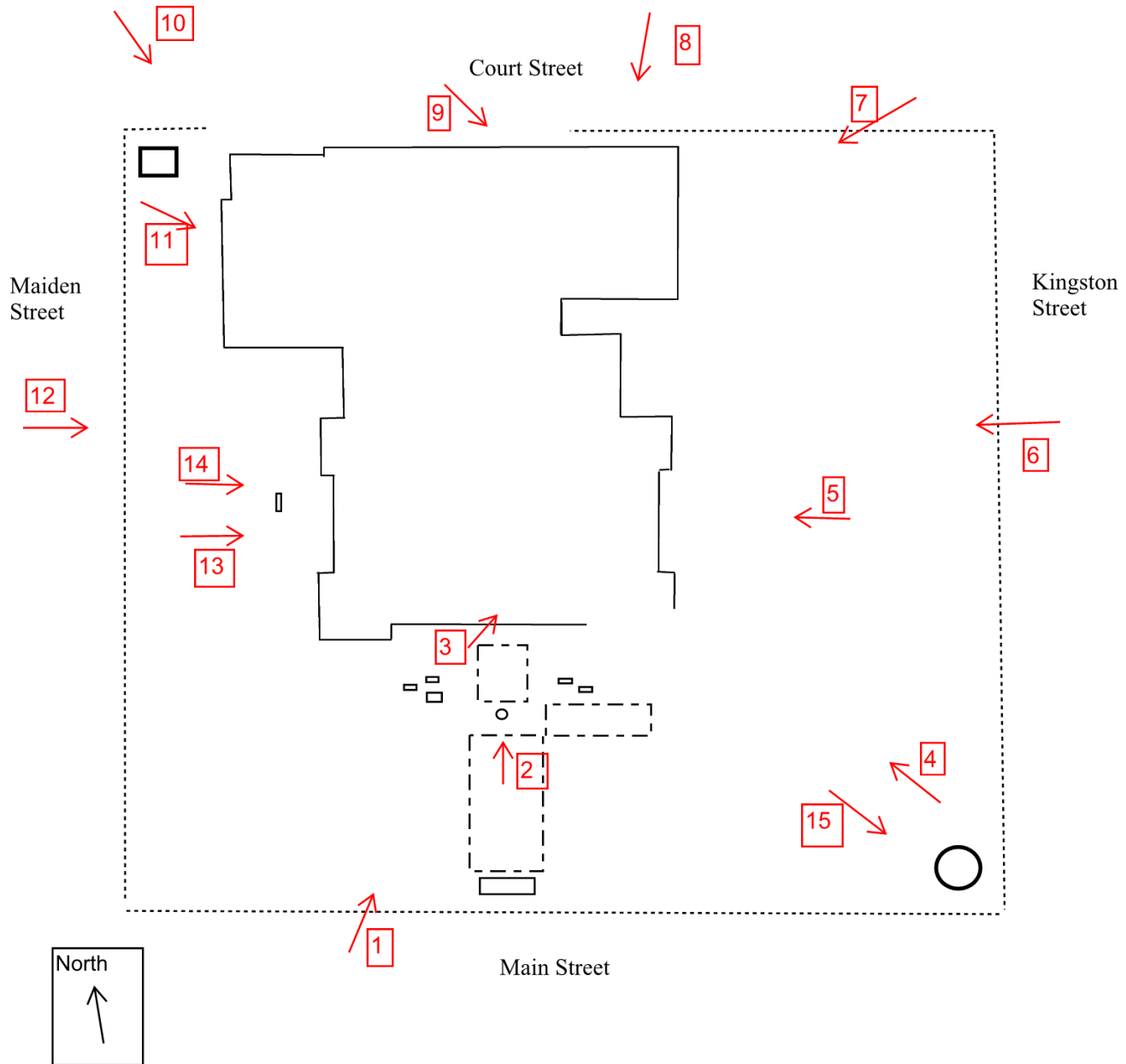


- Legend:
- 1. Perimeter Fence (contributing object)
 - 2. "George Frederick Gerding" Historic Marker (contributing object)
 - 3. Bicentennial All Wars Memorial (contributing object)
 - 4. State of Tennessee Bicentennial Gazebo (noncontributing structure)
 - 5. Flagpole (noncontributing object)
 - 6. WWI Casualties Memorial (noncontributing object)
 - 7. WWII Casualties Memorial (noncontributing object)
 - 8. Korean War Casualties Memorial (noncontributing object)
 - 9. Vietnam Casualties Memorial (noncontributing object)
 - 10. Engraved Brick Walkways (noncontributing site)
 - 11. Shelter (noncontributing structure)
 - 12. Extension Office Sign (noncontributing object)

Morgan County Courthouse
Name of Property

Morgan County, Tennessee
County and State

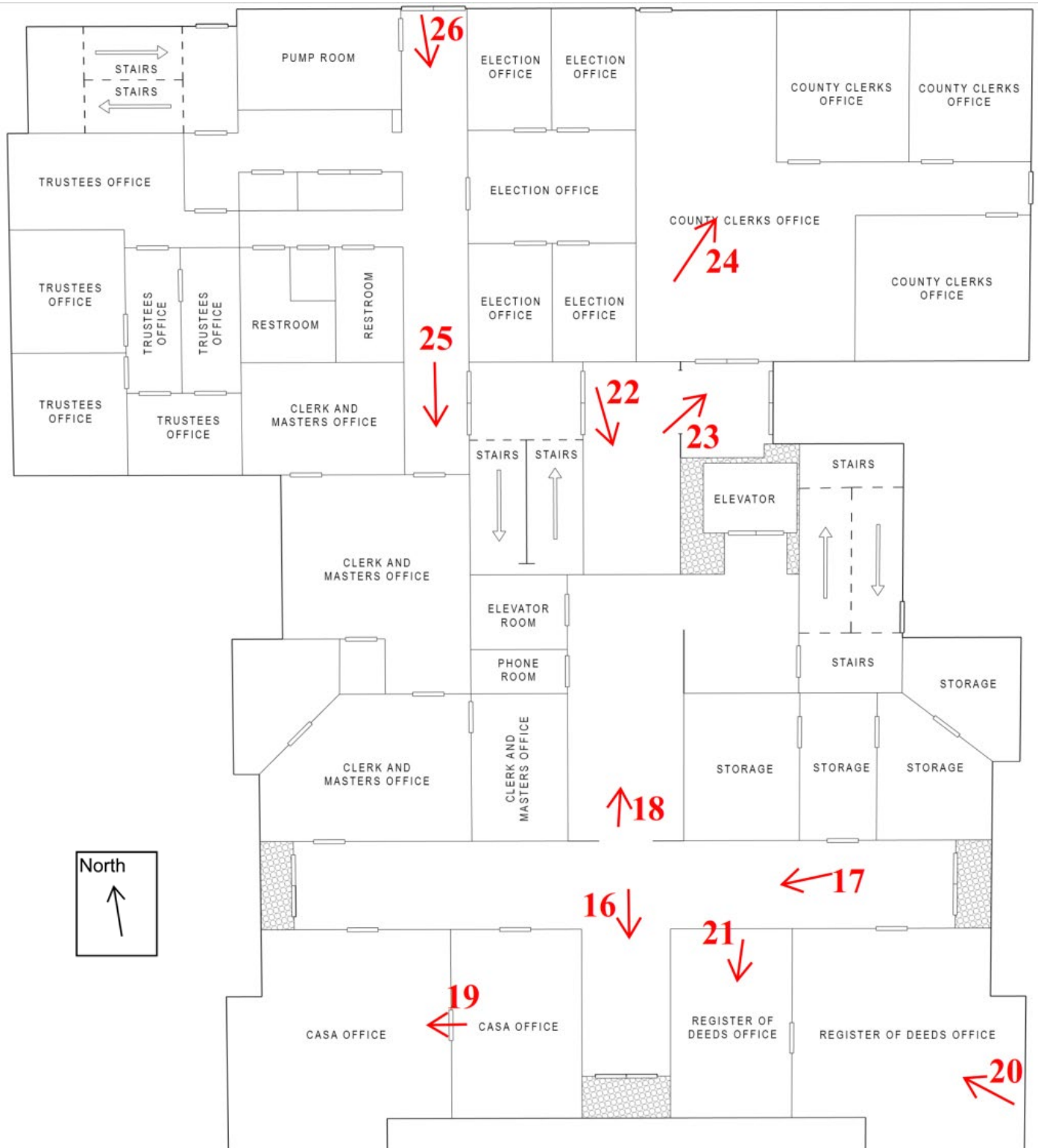
Site Plan: Exterior photo key (not to scale).



Morgan County Courthouse
Name of Property

Morgan County, Tennessee
County and State

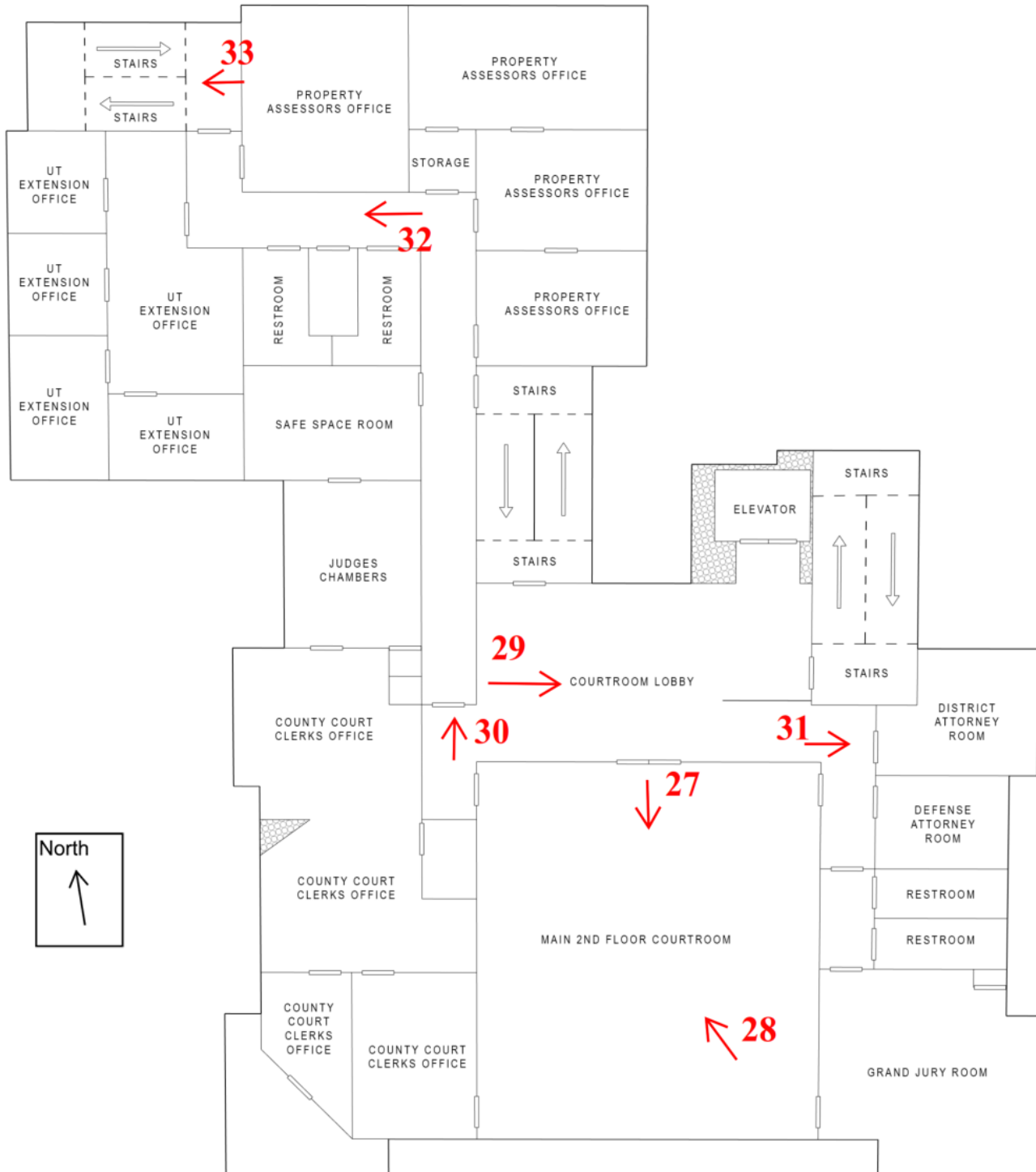
Floor Plan: First floor photo key (not to scale).



Morgan County Courthouse
Name of Property

Morgan County, Tennessee
County and State

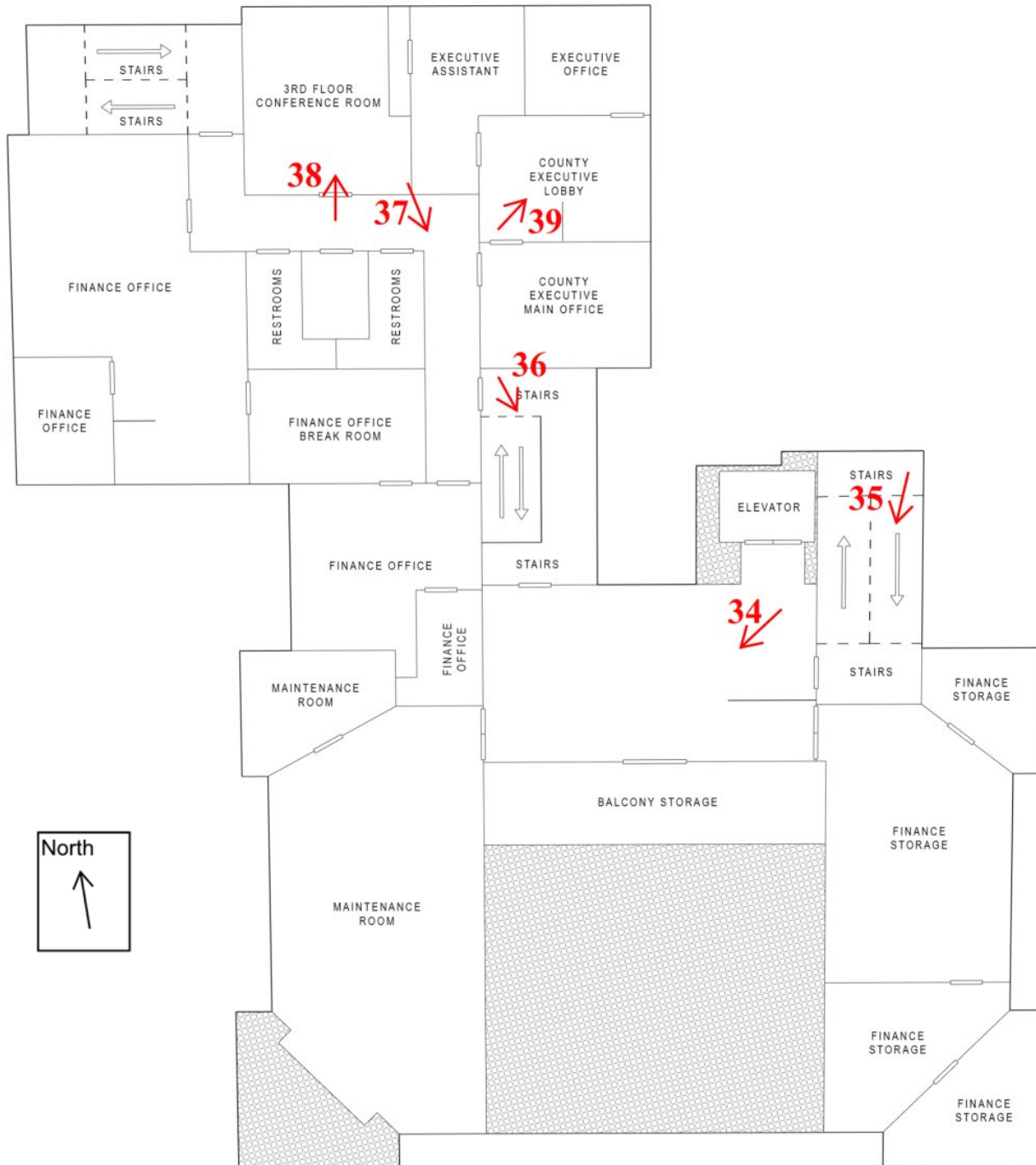
Floor Plan: Second floor photo key (not to scale).



Morgan County Courthouse
Name of Property

Morgan County, Tennessee
County and State

Floor Plan: Third floor photo key (not to scale).



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number ____ Page 50

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	Morgan County		
Street & Number	415 North Kingston Street	Telephone	(423) 346-6288
City or Town	Wartburg	State/Zip	TN/37887

**MORGAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE
WARTBURG, MORGAN COUNTY, TENNESSEE**



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**MORGAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE
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MORGAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE
WARTBURG, MORGAN COUNTY, TENNESSEE



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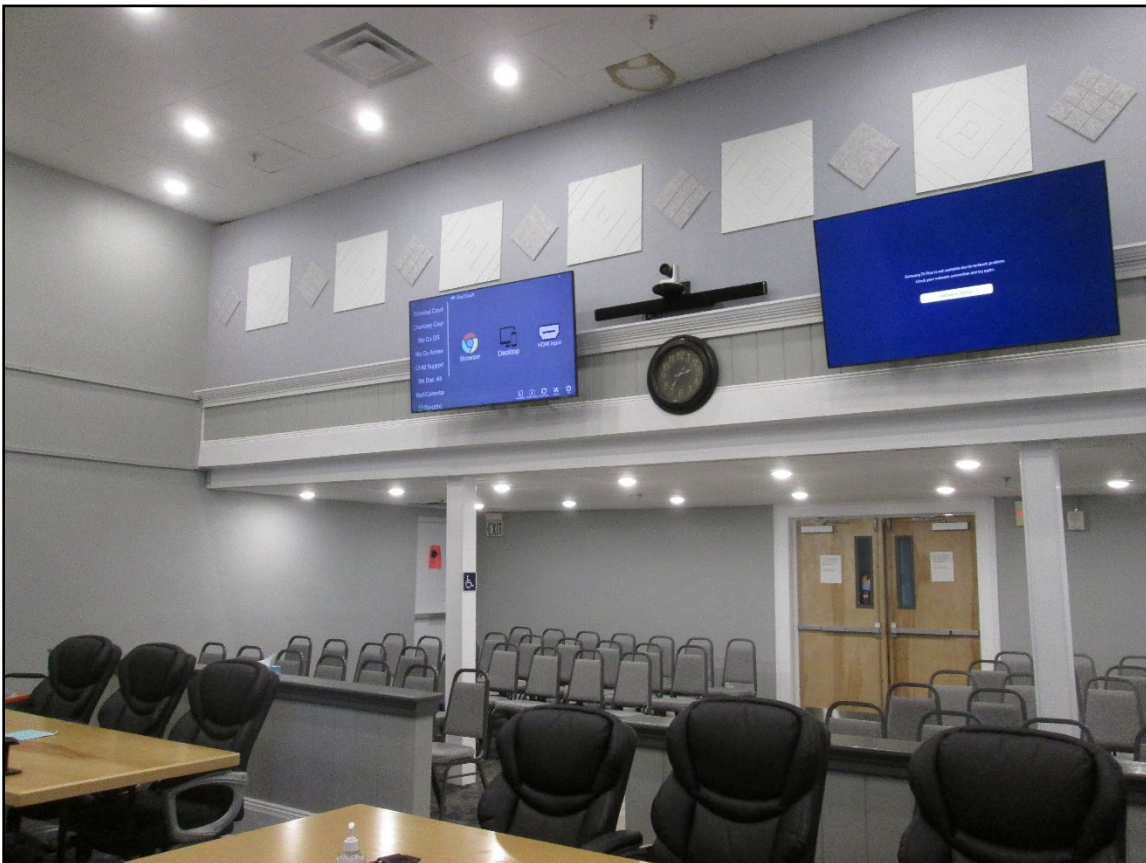


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**MORGAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE
WARTBURG, MORGAN COUNTY, TENNESSEE**



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WARTBURG, MORGAN COUNTY, TENNESSEE**



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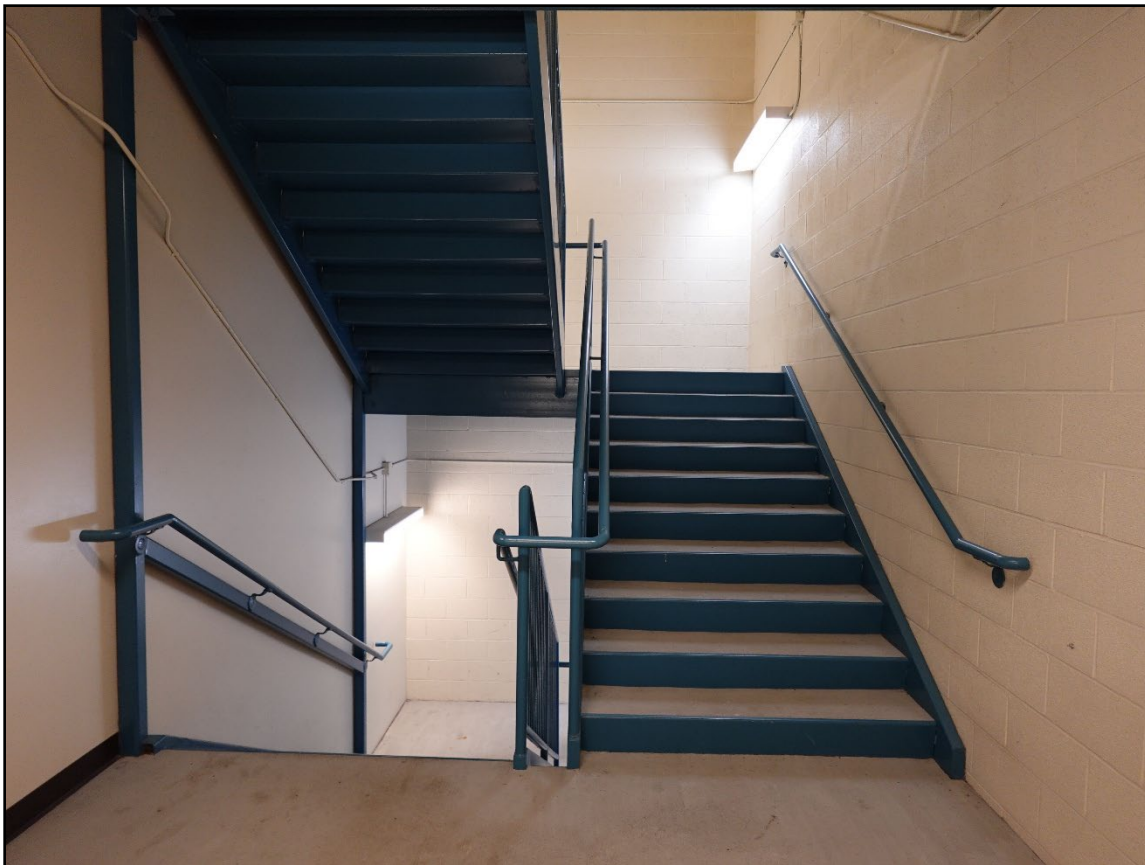
**MORGAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE
WARTBURG, MORGAN COUNTY, TENNESSEE**



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**MORGAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE
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