

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

Historic name Scott County Courthouse
Other names/site number Scott County Clerk's Office
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: 283 Court Street
City or town: Huntsville State: Tennessee County: Scott
Not For Publication: ☐ N/A Vicinity: ☐ N/A Zip: 37756

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	0	sites
0	0	structures
2	5	objects
3	5	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 / government office

SOCIAL / civic

RECREATION AND CULTURE / monument/marker

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS / Colonial Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

BRICK; STONE/limestone; METAL/copper; METAL/steel;
METAL/aluminum; ASPHALT; CONCRETE;
SYNTHETICS/vinyl

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Scott County Courthouse is located at 283 Court Street in Huntsville, Tennessee, and was completed in 1948. Knoxville architect Clement H. Meyer drafted plans for the courthouse, utilizing the existing foundation from the ruins of the previous courthouse (1906-1946), which was destroyed by fire. The courthouse exterior displays the Colonial Revival Style with modern influences of the time. The Scott County Courthouse is a masonry building with a central, two-story rectangular mass flanked on the North and South elevations by one-story brick wings. The building features a combination gabled and hipped roof of asphalt shingles and multi-light metal windows. The courthouse lawn contains various objects, including two contributing objects and five noncontributing objects.

Site and Setting

The Scott County Courthouse is located at the southern end of the Huntsville Mall, an open lawn bisected with sidewalks located between Baker Highway and the town square. The courthouse is on the northeast

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corner of the town square. Buildings surrounding the courthouse are a mix of old and new construction, including multiple public buildings, such as the Huntsville Public Library and various Scott County offices, as well as residences.

The NRHP-listed First National Bank of Huntsville (Reference #: 85001510; listed 1985) is also located within the town square, directly west of the courthouse across the pedestrian corridor. Just south of the town square, the NRHP-listed Old Scott County Jail (Reference #: 74001927, listed 1974) is located on the south side of Covered Bridge Road, approximately 250 ft southwest of the courthouse.

Scott County Courthouse, 1948 – Contributing Building

Exterior

The Scott County Courthouse is oriented east toward Court Street and features an irregular plan with varied massing. It is bounded to the east by Court Street, to the north by Woodland Place, to the west by a pedestrian corridor bisecting the town square, and to the south by a parking lot. The courthouse is a two-and-a-half-story masonry building flanked by nearly identical one-story wings located along its north and south elevations. The primary mass is sheltered by a hipped roof featuring a centralized front-gable roof extending a half-story above the two-story hipped roof; the one-story wings are each sheltered by side-gable roofs. Peaking gables accentuate the hipped roof along the north and south edges of the two-story primary mass. A copper four-sided clock tower featuring a dome and decorative columns along each elevation is centrally located on the front-gable roof. An exterior brick chimney is located along the north side of the projecting central gable at the rear (west) elevation. The entire roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles. The courthouse is set on a masonry foundation with a partial basement. The foundation and much of the exterior walls are built around the remains of the previous stone courthouse (1906-1946) which was destroyed by fire. Unless otherwise noted, windows are filled with multilight steel fixed sashes.

Historically, the central portion of the courthouse, presently characterized by a protruding front-gable roof, was sheltered by a hipped roof sheathed in corrugated metal. The two-story portion of the primary mass flanking the central half-story, as well as the one-story wings, were all sheltered by flat roofs of varying heights, all featuring parapets capped with stone coping. Archival photographs and county records indicate the roof line was changed to its current appearance circa 1982. In 2026-2027, a new roof will be placed on the courthouse, with new architectural asphalt shingles only. The pitch or shape of the roof will not be altered. A new HVAC system will also be installed, using existing conduits and vents.

Façade (East Elevation)

The Scott County Courthouse is oriented east, and its façade faces Court Street. The façade is comprised of the two-story primary mass, featuring seven bays, flanked by two one-story wings to the north and south, each featuring three bays, for a total of thirteen bays. The north and south corners of the two-story primary mass (fourth and tenth bays, respectively) protrude east slightly beyond the central footprint. The one-story wings each feature a one bay projection where the wing meets the primary mass (third and eleventh bays, respectively).

Brick embedded pilasters divide the bays. The masonry building features a common bond with Flemish every sixth course and stacked bonds define the embedded pilasters and windows. A limestone belt course

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encircles the building at the first story windowsill level. A second belt course is located on the primary mass at the second story lintel level; however, this belt course is absent along the fifth and ninth bays of the façade.

The front-gable roof sheltering the central three bays is centered on the primary entry. The four embedded pilasters located on front-gabled central portion are capped with limestone. A centrally located double-leaf entry filled with a pair of replacement full-light metal doors featuring a rectangular fixed transom pierces the façade. The entry features a decorative limestone surround with an arched pediment displaying dentils. The entry opens onto a poured concrete deck set on a brick foundation and accessed by poured concrete stairs. Metal handrails flank the stairs.

The façade is nearly symmetrical, excepting the projections located where the wings meet the primary mass (third and eleventh bays, respectively). First story bays are pierced with windows, excepting the north wing's projection (eleventh bay), which is without fenestration. The windows located on both wings and on the primary mass projecting corners are filled with four-light sashes. The fifth and ninth bay windows are filled with two-light sashes. The first story window immediately to the north of the primary entrance is filled with a twelve-light sash. The first story window immediately to the south of the primary entrance features a replacement, fixed multi-light, aluminum window with simulated divisions.

The second story of the primary mass features seven bays all pierced by windows featuring limestone sills. The northernmost (seventh bay) is filled with a four-light sash, the second and sixth with five-light, and the central three (third, fourth, and fifth) with eighteen-light sashes. The southernmost window (first bay) features composite replacement components to mimic the historic window and configuration. The central second story window (fourth bay) is obscured by the arched pediment above the entry. Small rectangular vents pierce the three central bays. The gablefield is clad with vinyl siding and features a circular louvered vent.

South Elevation

The south elevation is primarily comprised of the one-story south wing. It features three bays; the central bay is pierced by a double-leaf entry filled with a pair of replacement full-light metal doors. The entry features a limestone surround. The entry is accessed by a set of poured concrete stairs featuring metal handrails and leading to a poured concrete deck set on a brick foundation. Windows flank the entry and are filled with four-light sashes piercing a slightly recessed section of the masonry. The gablefield is clad with vinyl siding and features a circular louvered vent opening.

Portions of the two-story primary mass are visible on either side of the one-story wing, revealing a second story window on each side of the wing and a partial belt course, interrupted by the gable-roof. The west window is filled with a three-light sash; the east window is filled with a four-light sash. The peaking gables on the roof of the two-story primary mass are clad with scalloped vinyl siding.

West Elevation

Similar to the façade, the west (rear) elevation is comprised of the two-story primary mass featuring seven bays, flanked by two one-story wings to the north and south, each featuring three bays, for a total of thirteen bays. The west elevation is characterized by the protruding three central bays (sixth, seventh, and eighth) sheltered by a gable-roof; the fifth and ninth bays are recessed. The one-story wings each feature a one bay

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projection where the wing meets the primary mass (third and eleventh bays, respectively). A single-leaf entry filled with a full-light metal door and featuring an oversized sidelight pierces the south wing's first story at the eleventh bay. A single-leaf entry pierces the second story at the ninth bay and is accessed by a metal staircase.

The brick exterior chimney is located where the gable-roofed portion of the primary mass meets the hipped roof portion of the primary mass, between the fifth and sixth bays. Utilities, including numerous heating and air conditioning units, are located at various points along the rear elevation and ductwork is affixed to the rear elevation. A brick well featuring concrete caps projects from the rear elevation across the sixth and seventh bays, concealing a narrow exterior stairway accessing the courthouse basement.

Brick embedded pilasters divide the bays on the primary mass. The rear elevation features the same masonry patterns as the façade; however, the second story belt course located at the lintel level is continuous along the rear elevation. The rear elevation is nearly symmetrical, excepting the two entries. The second, third, seventh (central), and twelfth bays lack fenestration. The other bays are pierced with windows, all of which are filled with four-light sashes, except the sixth and eighth bays, located on the projecting central mass, which are each filled with twelve-light sashes. The single-leaf entry piercing the eleventh bay is filled with a replacement full light metal door featuring a single oversized sidelight. The entry opens onto a poured concrete deck supported by a brick foundation and featuring a metal railing.

The second story of the primary mass features seven bays. The second, third, and fifth bays are pierced by windows featuring limestone sills. The second bay window is filled with a four-light sash and the third and fifth bay windows are filled with twenty-four-light sashes. The single-leaf entry piercing the sixth bay is filled with a metal door. Small rectangular vents pierce the three central bays. The gablefield is clad with vinyl siding and features a circular louvered vent.

North Elevation

The north elevation is primarily comprised of the one-story north wing and is nearly identical to the south elevation. It features three bays; the central bay is pierced by a double-leaf entry filled with a pair of replacement full-light metal doors. The entry features a limestone surround. This entry is at grade. Windows flank the entry and are filled with four-light sashes piercing a slightly recessed section of the masonry. The gablefield is clad with vinyl siding and features a circular louvered vent opening.

Portions of the two-story primary mass are visible on either side of the one-story wing, revealing a second story window on each side of the wing and a partial belt course, interrupted by the gable-roof. The east window is filled with a three-light sash; the west window is filled with a four-light sash. The peaking gables on the roof of the two-story primary mass are clad with scalloped vinyl siding.

Interior

The primary entrance to the Scott County Courthouse is currently the double-leaf entry located on the north elevation; this change occurred in the 1990s for ADA compliance. This exterior entry opens into a small foyer featuring glazed tile clad walls and a mosaic tile floor. A double-leaf entry featuring a three-light transom and filled with a pair of original three-light wood doors provides access to a hallway that bisects the building, ending at an identical double-leaf entry accessing the south foyer and southern egress.

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The hallway features mosaic tile flooring and the doorways are trimmed with marble. The original courtroom benches line the hallway. The plaster walls feature marble wainscoting with marble baseboards differentiated by a different color. The hallway's east and west walls are pierced by large openings filled with textured glass blocks near both the south and north ends, for a total of four glass-blocked openings. Single-leaf entries also pierce the east and west walls of the hallway, providing access to offices and restrooms. Single-leaf entries are filled with original two-panel wood doors with inserted louvered vents in the bottom panel; the doors to the offices feature half-lights. At the center of the full-length hallway, a secondary hallway provides access to the entry on the façade (east elevation) via a foyer nearly identical to that at the north and south entries, which previously served as the primary entrance to the courthouse. The south foyer is nearly identical to the north foyer, excepting a single-leaf entry piercing the west wall, providing access to a supply closet. The entry lacks a door and features a wood jamb with a decorative wood pediment.

The various first floor offices have received several alterations, including various styles of replacement flooring (including vinyl, laminate, and carpeting), the addition of services counters, drop ceilings filled with acoustical panels, and additional drywall denoting closet and storage space. Many office and storage space entries feature fluted trim with rosette details. Three original vaults remain, featuring original metal security doors. Numerous inset windows on the first floor feature glazed tile interior sills.

The second floor of the courthouse is accessed by identical, mirrored stairways flanking the east elevation entryway and foyer. The stairs feature mosaic tile tread, and the stairway walls feature marble-cladding extending the full height of the first floor and up to wainscoting level at the second floor. A simple iron rail features on each side of the stairwell, ending at the mid-level landing. An iron balustrade begins at the mid-level landing and continues up the stairs and along the second floor landing. A stair lift is located on the northern stairway.

The primary space on the second floor, previously the courtroom, is presently home to the Scott County Historical Society. The large room features the original wood wainscoting and a double-leaf entry piercing the south wall and filled with a pair of original swinging wood doors, each featuring one-light. This entry provides access to the room from the south stairway. The original judge's bench is centrally located along the west wall and is clad with vertical wood paneling, matching the wainscoting on the courtroom walls.

The entire second floor features drop ceilings filled with acoustical panels. Secondary spaces are located north and south of the courtroom and are accessed by single-leaf entries filled with original half-light wood doors. Two original vaults remain on the second floor, featuring original metal security doors. Additional storage spaces were added after the roof alterations made circa 1982, providing attic-like storage spaces accessed by tight stairways and diminutive doors.

The Scott County Courthouse features a partial basement, located beneath the two-story primary mass and consisting of the footprint and remaining foundation of the stone courthouse destroyed by fire in 1946. The basement is accessed by an entry and stairway located north of the east entry hallway. The single-leaf entry is filled with an original wood door. Opening the door reveals exposed brick walls and metal stairs. The unfinished partial basement is characterized by exposed brick corridors, concrete floor joists, concrete block piers, brick piers, ductwork, piping, and conduit. Some of the brick walls are partially parged with concrete. Defined spaces are accessed by openings without doors featuring arched brick lintels. A single-leaf entry filled with a metal door provides access to the exterior stairwell located along the rear (west) elevation. The brick walls throughout the basement are characterized by varying courses and colors, likely indicating

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portions of the previous courthouse foundations. Portions of the circa 1906 stone foundation is visible in nooks and crannies of the basement. Stairs from the previous courthouse building remain in the basement, leading nowhere and terminating at the floor joists supporting the first floor.

Revolutionary War Memorial Marker, 1976 – Contributing Object

A marker honoring the American Revolutionary War soldiers that settled in the area to become Scott County after the war is located approximately 30 feet northwest of the courthouse's north elevation. It is visible and readable along the public sidewalk providing access to the courthouse's north entrance as well as the pedestrian corridor traveling along the courthouse's west elevation.

The cast aluminum marker is supported by a steel post set directly into the ground. The marker includes an American Revolution Bicentennial, 1776-1976, logo at the top. The marker reads: "Honoring Scott County's American Revolutionary War Soldiers, 1775-1781," followed by a list of names in alphabetical order by surname divided into two columns. The column on the left includes: Daniel Blevins, William Chambers, James Chitwood, Joseph Griffith, Joseph Hatfield, and David Lawson. The column on the right includes: John Lawson, James McDonald, Joseph McPeters, John Reed, Timothy Sexton, and Dennis Trammel. The bottom of the marker reads: "Erected July 4, 1976, Scott County Bicentennial Committee."

This marker was installed and dedicated as part of the County's bicentennial celebrations in 1976.¹ As such, this marker retains integrity and is considered a contributing object to the Scott County Courthouse. The marker is an example of an object celebrating local government history and politics. Furthermore, the marker was formally dedicated during the public bicentennial celebrations held at and near the Scott County Courthouse, serving as a symbol of the celebrations.

Time Capsule Marker, ca. 1976 – Contributing Object

A time capsule marker is located approximately 20 feet northwest of the courthouse's north elevation. It is visible from the public sidewalk providing access to the courthouse's north entrance as well as from the pedestrian corridor traveling along the courthouse's west elevation.

The light grey granite time capsule marker consists of a cemetery memorial set directly on the ground. It is of the single slant headstone style featuring a full-face slant without nosing or base. The marker features a flat top, and the tops and sides are rock pitch. The marker reads: "Bicentennial time capsule buried here December 18, A.D. 1976 containing mementoes from the people of Scott County in the year A.D. 1976. To be opened in 100 years by the people of Scott County in the year A.D. 2076."

The time capsule, containing the histories, photos, and records of Scott County schools, churches, and families, was buried at this location on December 18, 1976. The chairman of the Scott County Bicentennial Committee's capsule project, Irene Baker, told newspapers the day before the burial that a marker would be placed at the site soon thereafter.²

This marker was most likely installed in December 1976 and marks the location of a time capsule buried beneath. The marker and the buried capsule remain unaltered. As such, this marker retains integrity and is

¹"Sen. Baker to Speak at Scott County Bicentennial Celebration," *The Knoxville News-Sentinel* (Knoxville, Tennessee), June 20, 1976, A-6.

² "Scott to Bury Time Capsule," *The Knoxville News-Sentinel* (Knoxville, Tennessee), December 17, 1976, 9.

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considered a contributing object to the Scott County Courthouse. The marker is another example of an object celebrating local history regarding the government and community, as well as genealogy. Furthermore, the burying of the time capsule was a publicized and celebrated event open to the public as part of the Scott County bicentennial celebrations, albeit later in the year and not during the July 4 celebrations.

“Independent State of Scott” Historic Marker, 1976 (moved ca. 2014-2015) – Noncontributing Object

A Tennessee Historical Commission (THC) Historical Marker titled the “Independent State of Scott” (Marker 1F 32) is located approximately 30 feet north of the courthouse’s north elevation along the public sidewalk providing access to the north entrance. This marker was moved to this location sometime between April 2014 and September 2015. The marker was originally installed at the north end of the Huntsville Mall along Baker Hwy (State Route 63), approximately 800 feet north of the courthouse.

The cast aluminum marker is supported by a steel post set into a small concrete pad. The marker includes the Tennessee Three-Star symbol, the marker number (1F 32), and the narrative reads: “United States Senator Andrew Johnson delivered a speech at the Courthouse at Huntsville on June 4, 1861 against separation. At the election four days later Scott County voted against separation by the largest percentage margin of any county in Tennessee. Later that year in defiance of the state's action of secession, the county court by resolution seceded from the state and formed the Free and Independent State of Scott.” Below the narrative the marker includes “Tennessee Historical Commission.”

While the “Independent State of Scott” (Marker 1F 32) was originally installed and dedicated as part of the County’s bicentennial celebrations in 1976, it is no longer located at the original location, therefore this marker is a noncontributing object to the Scott County Courthouse due to its relocation.³

Flagpole, unknown (moved ca. 1982) – Noncontributing Object

A flagpole is located approximately 30 feet north of the courthouse’s north elevation where the sidewalk meets the concreted entryway. Archival photographs show that a flagpole was originally located along the façade (east elevation). Local sources believe the flagpole was moved around the time of the roof replacement in 1982; archival photographs corroborate this time frame.

The flagpole is comprised of a metal pole mounted onto a concrete pad. A brass eagle 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.

John Lewallen Memorial, 1985 – Noncontributing Object

A memorial to John Lewallen, the first sheriff of Scott County, is located directly adjacent to the façade (east elevation) just north of the primary entrance. The granite memorial was installed on June 29, 1985.

The light grey granite memorial consists of a cemetery memorial set on a rectangular concrete base. It is of the single slant headstone style featuring nosing and a flat top. The sides and nosing are rock pitch. The memorial includes a rendering of a sheriff’s star-shaped badge reading “Sheriff, J. Lewallen, Scott County,”

³ “Sen. Baker to Speak,” *The Knoxville News-Sentinel*.

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and the text reads: "Erected June 29, 1985 in memory of John Lewallen, first sheriff of Scott County, 1850 – 1858. Presented by Reece Monument Co."

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

Colonel Joseph Cecil Monument, 2019 – Noncontributing Object

A monument to Colonel Joseph S. Cecil is located approximately 30 feet north of the courthouse's north elevation at the corner of Woodland Place and Court Street. The granite monument was installed in 2019. Prior to the installation of this monument, a brass bell from the USS Tennessee was located on this concrete pad. The bell was relocated to the USS Tennessee Battleship Museum in 2005.⁴

The upright monument features an oval top and is set on a rectangular granite base mounted on a concrete pad. Decorative fluted columns flank the flat face which features text as well as an image. The laser-engraved image is a portrait of Colonel Cecil and the text reads: "Col. Joseph S. Cecil, 1878-1940, Congressional Medal of Honor, While serving during the Philippine insurrection at Bud-Dajo, Philippine Islands as 1st Lt. in the 19th U.S. Infantry earned the CMOH on March 7, 1906, 'While at the head of the column about to assault the first cotta under a superior fire at short range personally carried to a sheltered position a wounded man and the body of one who was killed beside him.'" Below the narrative, the monument reads: "Erected by the Scott County Historical Society, the Industrial Development Board, monument by Keeton Monuments, Robbins, TN."

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

Courthouse Sign, ca. 2023 – Noncontributing Object

A sign is located approximately 30 ft northwest of the courthouse's north elevation between the concrete pad marking the entryway and the pedestrian corridor. The sign is comprised of an aluminum face supported by two aluminum posts. The face shows Tennessee's three-star symbol, flanked with scrolls, and reads: "Courthouse, Court St. Huntsville, TN 37756, Register of Deeds, County Clerk, Assessor of Property, Historical Society."

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 Scott County Courthouse retains integrity of its location, setting, feeling, association, materials, and workmanship. The courthouse remains at its original location on Court Street, within the town square and at the southern terminus of the Huntsville Mall. The setting has changed little since the period of significance as most of the surrounding buildings predate the courthouse and there has been little development since the mid-century within the immediate area. Many of the surrounding mid-century buildings are also home to

⁴ Lisa Warren, "East Tennessee Museum Keeping Alive The Memory of the State's Namesake WWII Battleship," *The Greeneville Sun*, February 21, 2022. Accessed May 7, 2026. https://www.greenevillesun.com/news/local_news/east-tennessee-museum-keeping-alive-the-memory-of-the-state-s-namesake-wwii-battleship/article_72045da0-4762-58b6-a029-5428c293a5c6.html

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county offices, maintaining an integrity of feeling as the area has remained a location for local government services, centralizing Scott County's administrative functions. The courthouse retains integrity of association because it historically housed county offices and the county's courts. Furthermore, the continued installation of memorials and signage commemorating Scott County history as outlined above maintains the site's function as a public commemorative center and retains the courthouse's association with shared heritage. The courthouse also retains notable integrity of materials and workmanship. As discussed above, most of the exterior original materials remain intact, excepting the exterior doors which have been likely been replaced twice according to archival photographs. The courthouse exterior continues to display the Colonial Revival Style, evidenced by symmetrical elevations, brick embedded pilasters, limestone belt courses, multilight windows (excluding the two replacements noted above), and decorative limestone door surrounds and arched pediments. Furthermore, many historic materials remain intact throughout the interior, including glazed tile, glass blocks, and marble wainscoting. Most of the interior doors are original and double-leaf entries feature original three-light transoms. The building's design has been impacted by the alterations to the roofline circa 1982; however, there are no substantial additions to the building's horizontal footprint, and the character-defining cupola, or clock tower, remains. Thus, the Scott 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

1948 – 1976

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Meyer, Clement H. (architect)

John A. Johnson and Sons (contractor)

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Scott 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 Scott County. The Scott County Courthouse holds significance because it became a locus that centralized critical political and social activity across the rural, East Tennessee county, allowing for and ensuring participation from the far reaches of the county. 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 1948 upon completion of the courthouse’s 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 Scott County and Huntsville

Scott County occupies the region between the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River and the Cumberland Mountains and is located along the border of Tennessee and Kentucky northwest of the City of Knoxville. A portion of the land along the Kentucky and Tennessee border, including today’s northern Scott County, remained in dispute until circa 1820 due to an error in establishing the true parallel at 36 degrees and 30 minutes.⁵ The exact state boundary was not officially established until a survey in 1859.⁶ Scott County is bounded to the west by Pickett, Fentress and Morgan Counties and to the east by Campbell and Anderson Counties.

As the number of early European American settlers located in Fentress, Morgan, and Campbell Counties grew in the first half of the nineteenth century, so did the need for a new county to service the growing population. Crossing the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River from eastern Fentress County to the county’s seat at Jamestown had proven to be a treacherous venture and the journey over the Cumberland Mountains from western Campbell County to the county’s seat at Jacksboro or from northern Morgan County to the county’s seat at Wartburg were lengthy and arduous. In the 1840s the number of residents making these trips to attend court grew to a critical point.⁷ It was common to establish new counties due to inaccessibility concerns. As noted in the Historic County Facilities MPDF: “The county seat was typically placed near the center of the county, thus complying with state rules that required equal access by all residents within one day’s journey. An inaccessible county seat was typically used as justification to form a new county with smaller boundaries, carved out of portions of adjacent counties.”⁸

The General Assembly of Tennessee formed Scott County from portions of Anderson, Campbell, Fentress, and Morgan Counties on December 17, 1849. The new county was named in honor of Major Winfield Scott, a War of 1812 veteran who became a popular hero in East Tennessee. A board of commissioners formed a

⁵ Pollyanna Creekmore, *Population Schedule of the United States Census of 1850 for Scott County, Tennessee* (Revised Edition), (Knoxville: Clinchdale Press, 1980), Foreword.

⁶ Scott County, Tennessee, “Our History,” accessed April 20, 2026, <https://scottcounty.com/welcome/our-history/>

⁷ Ibid.; H. Clay Smith, *Dusty Bits of the Forgotten Past: A History of Scott County*, (Huntsville: Scott County Historical Society, 1985), 72-73.

⁸ 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, 8.

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committee to select a site to serve as the county seat and they selected a location near a natural spring. It is widely believed that the county seat of Huntsville was named after a hunting camp and grounds in the area. Some historians, however, believe Huntsville was named in honor of the first permanent resident of the area, surnamed Hunt. The committee selected this location for the county seat due to its central location in the county, an existing road that passed through present-day Huntsville west to Jamestown in neighboring Fentress County, and the existence of a natural spring, referred to as "Town Spring" or "Hunter's Spring," which provided water for the town for many years.⁹ Scott County considered moving the county seat from Huntsville to Helenwood in 1893; however, this never came to fruition.¹⁰

When the Scott County seat at Huntsville was established, it fulfilled a major need in rural East Tennessee. Itinerant judges and attorneys covered large circuits in rural East Tennessee in the nineteenth century, and the new court location at Huntsville proved to be convenient for them, as well as for the new Scott County residents. The newly-formed Scott County seat is located approximately half-way between the county seats of Campbell and Fentress Counties to the east and west, respectively. Itinerant judges and lawyers would board with various families in town due to a lack of hotels in the early days.¹¹

Due to the mountainous terrain, Scott County remained relatively isolated. According to the 1850 United States Census, Scott County boasted a population of 1,905 the year after its formation. Of those, 37 individuals were enslaved. Farming was overwhelmingly the most common occupation in Scott County in 1850.¹²

As war between the states became imminent, South Carolina seceded from the Union, forming the Confederate State of America. Tennessee was the eleventh and final state to officially secede. The residents of Scott County, however, voted overwhelmingly against secession on June 8, 1861. Scott County is known for being the county most averse to secession in the state, with 561 opposed and 19 for secession. In turn, the Scott County Court approved a county resolution to secede from the State of Tennessee, forming the Independent State of Scott in 1861. This historic fact is celebrated by the "Independent State of Scott" historic marker located by the courthouse and described above. While the county had no legal basis to secede from the state, arguably the state also had no legal authority to secede from the Union. During the Civil War, due to its geographic isolation, Scott County was of no strategic importance, and no major battles were fought within the county. The county saw many skirmishes and guerilla warfare, and many Union-minded East Tennesseans traveled through Scott County on their way to Kentucky to join the Union.¹³

In the 1870s, the completion of the Cincinnati-Southern Railroad, later renamed the Norfolk-Southern Railroad, connected Scott County to rail towns as far as Chattanooga to the south and Cincinnati to the north. A railroad tunnel near Robbins in Scott County was the final portion of the railroad to be completed. Completion of the railroad spurred timber and mining industries in the county and Oneida, located north of

⁹ Creekmore, *Population Schedule*, Foreword; Esther Sharp Sanderson, *County Scott and its Mountain Folk* (Huntsville: Self-published, 1958), 5; Smith, *Dusty Bits*, 61.

¹⁰ "To Change a County Seat," *Chattanooga Daily Times*, (Chattanooga, Tennessee), April 18, 1893.

¹¹ Sanderson, *County Scott*, 85.

¹² Creekmore, *Population Schedule*, Foreword; Sanderson, *County Scott*, 5.

¹³ Sanderson, *County Scott*, 192; Scott County, "Our History."

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Huntsville and incorporated in 1913, became home to the rail station and is now the largest town in the county. Huntsville, the county seat, was not incorporated until 1965.¹⁴

Today, Scott County is known as Big South Fork Country due to the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area occupying in the west portion of the county. The population as of 2024 was approximately 22,517.¹⁵

History of the First Three Scott County Courthouses

The current Scott County Courthouse is the fourth courthouse to be located at or near this location since the founding of Scott County in 1849. Scott County first held court in 1850 in a temporary log courthouse and people from all over the county were in attendance. Scott County constructed their first official courthouse the following year (served as the Scott County Courthouse 1851 – ca.1871); their second courthouse circa 1871 (ca. 1871 – 1906); their third courthouse circa 1906 (ca. 1906-1946); and their fourth courthouse, the subject of this nomination, between 1947 and 1948 (1948-2008).

Scott County's first official courthouse was constructed with red brick (Figure 1). The contractor was Jacob Newman.¹⁶ The early courthouse also served the community for church services, public gatherings, and livestock transactions, and the First Baptist Church of Huntsville organized in the building. Early in Scott County history, the establishment of a litigating center garnered much excitement. Locals would attend court regardless of involvement in the active litigation, and the courthouse provided a location where locals could gather and gossip.¹⁷

Notably, future President Andrew Johnson gave a speech against secession from the Union on the steps of the first Scott County courthouse on June 4, 1861, days before Scott Countians voted on the matter. Today these historic events are noted by a THC historic marker near the location (see above).¹⁸

This first courthouse building remained in use until the early 1870s upon the completion of a second building of frame construction nearby (Figure 2). Scott County abandoned the first brick courthouse building. It later became the home to various businesses and, briefly, the Huntsville Post Office around the turn of the century.¹⁹

¹⁴ Scott County, "Our History."

¹⁵ Scott County, Tennessee, "Our Population," accessed April 20, 2026, <https://scottcounty.com/welcome/our-population/>

¹⁶ Amos McDonald, "Statement of Amos M'Donald, Huntsville, Scott county, Tenn., April 9, '60," *The Tennessean* (Nashville, Tennessee), April 20, 1860, 2.

¹⁷ Sanderson, *County Scott*, 89; Esther Sharp Sanderson, *Scott County, Gem of the Cumberlands*, (Huntsville: Self-published, 1974), 14.

¹⁸ Scott County, Tennessee, "The Free & Independent State of Scott," accessed April 20, 2026, <https://scottcounty.com/welcome/about-scott-county/the-free-independent-state-of-scott/>

¹⁹ Scott County Historical Society (SCHS), *A Pictorial History of Scott County, Tennessee*, (Huntsville: SCHS, 1992), 20; Smith, *Dusty Bits*, 445.

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Figure 1. Circa 1900 photograph showing the first Scott County Courthouse (1851 – ca. 1871), later used by various businesses. Courtesy of Scott County Historical Society.

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Figure 2. Circa 1900 photograph showing the second Scott County Courthouse (ca. 1871 – ca. 1906). Courtesy Tennessee State Library & Archives.

The third courthouse, constructed of native sandstone and completed circa 1906, served the county for four decades (Figure 3). After its completion, the second frame courthouse remained standing next door. The Scott County Jail was also constructed of native sandstone and completed in 1906; it remains standing today and is listed on the NRHP (Reference #: 74001927, listed 1974). The third Scott County Courthouse project architect was W. Chamberlain of Birmingham, Alabama, who also designed the Morgan County Courthouse. This grand building featured a clock tower, beloved by Scott Countians.²⁰

²⁰ Creekmore, *Population Schedule*, Foreword; Sanderson, *County Scott*, 89-91; "Scott County Court House May Be Built," *Knoxville Sentinel* (Knoxville, Tennessee), August 17, 1903, 3; "Scott County's Court House," *Knoxville Sentinel* (Knoxville, Tennessee), December 12, 1904, 5.

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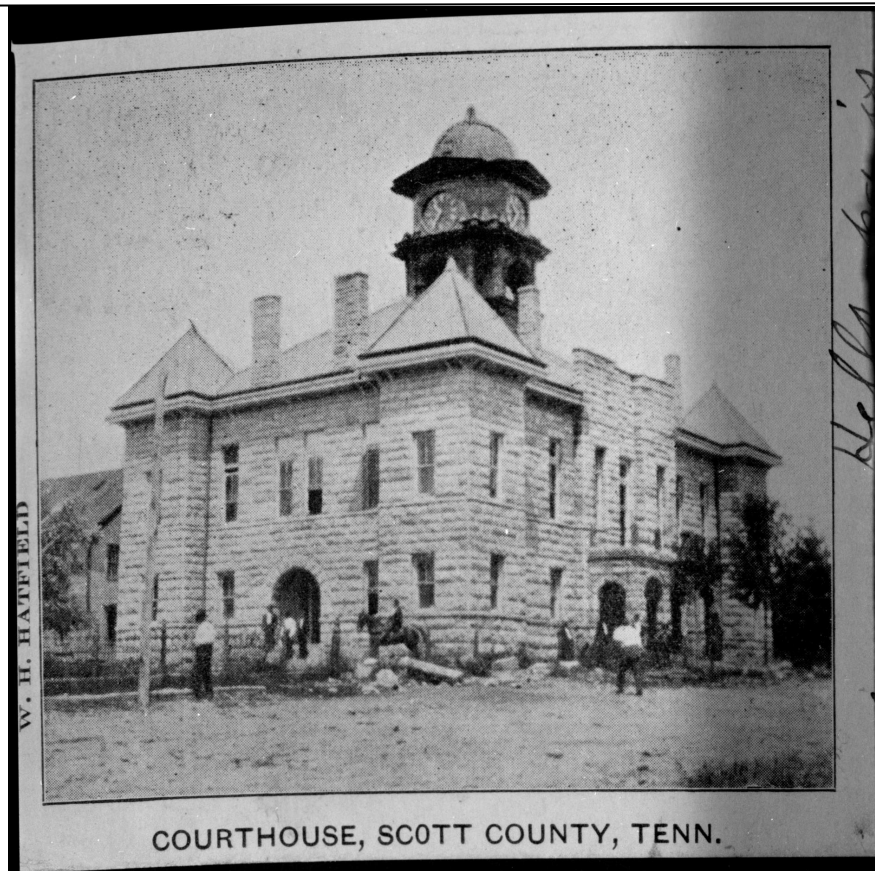


Figure 3. Circa 1906 photograph showing the third Scott County Courthouse (1906 – 1946). Note the second Scott County Courthouse visible in the background at left. Courtesy Tennessee State Library & Archives.

According to a 1905 article in the *Nashville Banner*, upon the third courthouse's completion, "Scott County is probably the only county in the United States which has three courthouses, all very near each other, in a row. We have in this village which is the county seat of Scott County, one brick, one frame and one stone courthouse. These were erected in the order named."²¹ Archival photographs confirm the second frame courthouse remained next door to the third stone courthouse; however, whether the first brick courthouse remained in 1906 was not confirmed during research.²²

In the dark of night on Wednesday, December 18, 1946, the courthouse caught fire and many locals gathered with buckets of water from their homes. Huntsville lacked any fire-fighting equipment, therefore Scott County Sheriff Butler attempted contacting the fire department, located in Oneida to the north. Upon their arrival, they discovered the water tanks were frozen. Many valuable records were lost.²³ According to local

²¹ "Scott County's Three Court-Houses," *Nashville Banner* (Nashville, Tennessee), November 18, 1905, 14.

²² SCHS, *Pictorial History*, 17.

²³ "Scott County Courthouse Burns as Freeze Cuts Off Water," *The Knoxville News Sentinel*, (Knoxville, Tennessee), December 23, 1946, 7; SCHS, *Scott County Chronicle*, Vol. 11, No. 2, "Newspaper accounts of the burning of the old courthouse. (1946)," September-October 2020, 5-6; Creekmore, *Population Schedule*, Foreword.

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recollection: "People who had heard the old clock strike one, forty years ago, watched it still standing in the inferno, seemingly defying the fury of the surrounding blazes. It made no desperate plunge to its final resting place but slowly sank beneath the flames."²⁴

After the devastating fire, much of the stone walls and framework remained, though all interior woodwork had been reduced to ashes (Figure 4). Plans for construction of Scott County's fourth courthouse began within days. While the fourth courthouse was under construction, the county held court in the schoolhouse. Newspapers frequently stated that the new courthouse would utilize the remains of the stone structure, including stone walls and foundation.²⁵

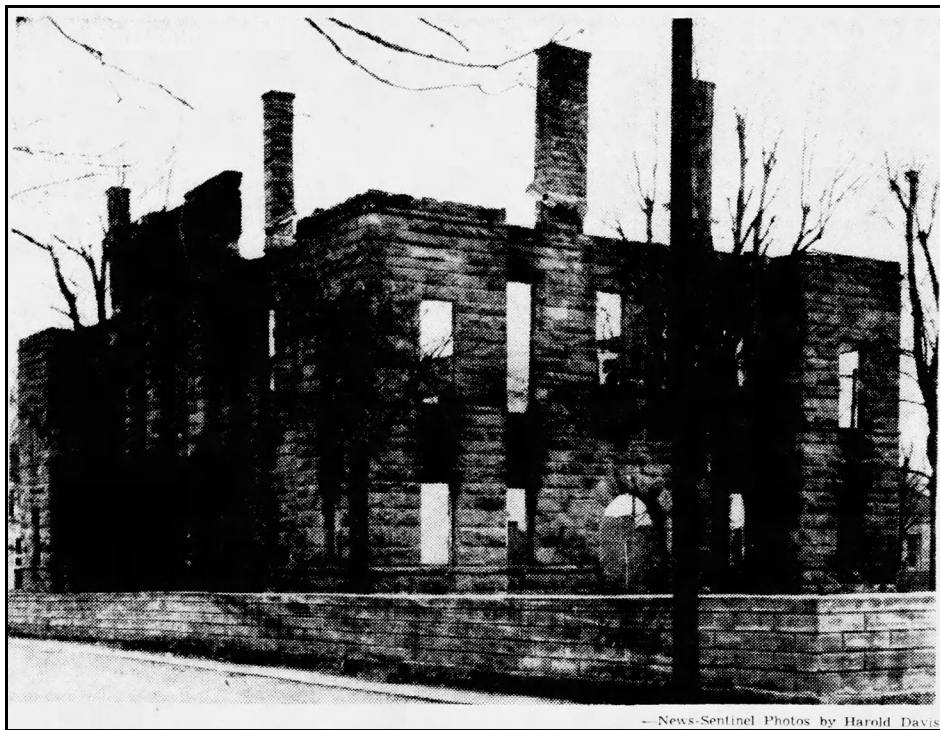


Figure 4. Photograph taken after the 1946 fire showing the remains of the third Scott County Courthouse (1906 – 1946).²⁶

History of the Fourth Scott County Courthouse

Meetings regarding funding and contracting for the construction of the fourth Scott County Courthouse began in January of 1947, and Knoxville architect Clement H. Meyer drafted plans utilizing the existing foundation from the previous courthouse ruins. Scott County courthouse bonds were issued in March 1947 in the amount of \$225,000. Scott County Quarterly Court and the Building Committee let the building contract

²⁴ Sanderson, *County Scott*, 89-90.

²⁵ "Scott County Courthouse Burns as Freeze Cuts Off Water," *The Knoxville News Sentinel* (Knoxville, Tennessee), December 23, 1946, 7; Sanderson, *County Scott*, 90; SCHS, *Pictorial History*, 20; Willard Yarbrough, "3 Doctors Put on Job; State Auditors Come," *The Knoxville News Sentinel* (Knoxville, Tennessee), January 1, 1947, 1-2.

²⁶ Harold Davis, Photograph, "Ghostlike Court House," *The Knoxville News-Sentinel* (Knoxville, Tennessee), January 6, 1947, 3.

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to contractor John A. Johnson & Sons, Inc., for a sum not to exceed \$205,000. They requested work begin immediately and anticipated a schedule totaling six or seven months. A courthouse Building Committee, chaired by Howard H. Baker, Sr., who would later become the United States House Representative for Tennessee's 2nd District (1951-1964), oversaw building construction alongside the architect.²⁷

Meyer was a notable Knoxville architect, responsible for a variety of buildings in Knoxville and East Tennessee, particularly schools and public institutions, including the Huntsville High School (NRHP-listed 1987; removed due to demolition 1996). John A. Johnson & Sons are notable for their work on several projects in post-Manhattan Project era Oak Ridge for the Atomic Energy Commission (now Department of Energy) in the late 1940s to 1950s, including laboratory buildings at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, permanent residential housing, and an elementary school.²⁸

Despite the hopeful schedule, newspapers suggest actual construction began in the summer of 1947 and that the court's first session in Scott County's new courthouse was not until July 1948.²⁹ Once completed, the courthouse's exterior displayed a Colonial Revival Style, featuring symmetrical elevations with a central two-story mass flanked by identical one-story wings to the north and south. Additional Colonial Revival Style exterior features include brick embedded pilasters, limestone belt courses, multilight windows, and decorative limestone door surrounds and arched pediments. The roof features a common courthouse character-defining feature: a centrally located metal cupola, or clock tower, featuring clockfaces on all four elevations (Figures 5 and 6). As discussed in the Historic County Facilities MPDF, it is common for historic courthouses to be professionally designed and include architectural features that help the building stand out within the local architectural context.³⁰ The Scott County Courthouse is a notable example of this trend.

²⁷ SCHS, *Scott County Chronicle*, Vol. 11, No. 2, "Newspaper accounts of the burning of the old courthouse. (1946)," September-October 2020, 5-6; Roscoe Byrd, "Legal Notices," *The Knoxville News-Sentinel* (Knoxville, Tennessee), March 19, 1947, 16; "Brick Layers Wanted," *Chattanooga Daily Times* (Chattanooga, Tennessee), August 27, 1947.

²⁸ "Legal Notice to Contractors: Scott County Special Building Board," *The Knoxville Journal* (Knoxville, Tennessee), June 3, 1947; "Notice to Contractors," *The Knoxville Journal* (Knoxville, Tennessee), May 12, 1931; Bert Walker, "Huntsville High School," National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form, 1987.

²⁹ SCHS, *Scott County Chronicle*, Vol. 11, No. 2, "Newspaper accounts of the burning of the old courthouse. (1946)," September-October 2020, 5-6.

³⁰ Schmitt, MPDF, 170.

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Figure 5. Circa 1958 photograph of the fourth Scott County Courthouse. Courtesy of Esther Sharp Sanderson.³¹



Figure 6. Photograph taken between 1977 and 1982 showing an aerial view of the fourth Scott County Courthouse at left. Note the historic Scott County Jail in the far background at center and additional mid-century buildings located within the public courthouse square. Courtesy of the Scott County Historical Society.

³¹ Sanderson, *County Scott*.

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The Scott 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 Scott County Courthouse was no different as illustrated by the examples and historic context provided below.

The Scott County Courthouse's historic significance related to politics and government is evidenced by numerous special and regular events that took place on site. Prospective governors, congressmen, senators, and even presidents often spoke at all four Scott County courthouses in Huntsville over the decades, often welcomed by a packed house. According to *The Knoxville Journal*, in 1950 the "largest crowd ever to assemble in Scott County" gathered at the courthouse to hear Howard H. Baker, Sr., campaign for the United States House of Representatives. Cars were parked throughout Huntsville and on both sides of a mile or more of Highway 63. Approximately 3,000 spectators gathered on site, though only a few hundred could be accommodated within the courthouse. Baker's remarks were amplified by loudspeaker around the courthouse and town square. At that time, native Scott Countian Baker was the first congressional candidate from Scott County in a century.³²

Many other political campaign rallies occurred at the Scott County Courthouse, including Buford Ellington's campaign for Tennessee Governor in 1958.³³ After Rep. Howard Baker's untimely passing during his congressional term, his widow, Irene Baker, campaigned in 1964 to assume his unexpired term, making a stop at the Scott County Courthouse to be met with overflowing crowds as her husband did years before.³⁴

Rep. Howard H. Baker's son, Howard Henry Baker, Jr., followed in his father's footsteps, beginning his political career in 1964. In 1966, he conducted a Senate campaign to become the first Republican Senator from Tennessee in nearly 100 years. As the Scott County Courthouse served as the local voting location, Howard Henry Baker, Jr., and his wife, Joy Baker, voted at the Scott County Courthouse (Figure 7).³⁵ He won that election, beginning a lengthy political career. Senator Baker appeared at the Scott County Courthouse numerous times, including numerous hometown rallies in the 1970s during his Senate campaigns and in 1979 when he announced his intentions to run for president.³⁶ Senator Baker followed his father's tradition of visiting Morgan, Roane, and Scott Counties as a windup to all of his political campaigns. Baker often introduced his political intentions from the comfort of his hometown, including his Senate re-election

³² "Scott Hails Baker With Huge Throng," *The Knoxville Journal* (Knoxville, Tennessee), August 1, 1950, 1-2.

³³ Wayne Whitt, "Teachers Hear Ellington Plea," *The Tennessean* (Nashville, Tennessee), October 30, 1958, 2.

³⁴ "Mrs. Baker to Tour Four Counties Today," *The Knoxville Journal* (Knoxville, Tennessee), March 7, 1964, 14; Ralph Griffith, "Landslide Vote For Mrs. Baker Forecast," *The Knoxville Journal* (Knoxville, Tennessee), March 9, 1964, 1-2.

³⁵ Bob Gilbert, "Turnout is Heavy in Statewide Voting," *The Knoxville News-Sentinel* (Knoxville, Tennessee) November 8, 1966, 1, 10.

³⁶ "Huntsville is Proud of 'H'ard Henry'," *Elizabethton Star* (Elizabethton, Tennessee), November 11, 1979, 5; "Blanton to Make Final Bid in Shelby," *The Commercial Appeal* (Memphis, Tennessee) November 6, 1972, 15; "Election News Inside," *The Knoxville News-Sentinel* (Knoxville, Tennessee), November 5, 1971, 1.

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campaign which he announced from the Scott County Courthouse steps in 1978. Huntsville even began an annual event named "Howard Baker Day," celebrated at the Scott County Courthouse in Huntsville.³⁷



Figure 7. Photograph taken November 1966, showing Howard H. Baker, Jr., and his wife, Joy Baker, exiting the Scott County Courthouse after voting. Courtesy of *The Knoxville News-Sentinel*.³⁸

³⁷ Lee Stillwell, "Baker Campaign Ends at Home," *The Knoxville News-Sentinel* (Knoxville, Tennessee), November 5, 1972, 15; "Baker," *The Tennessean* (Nashville, Tennessee), November 4, 1978, 1, 4; Larry Daughtrey, "Baker Sure to Face Two in Senate Race," *The Tennessean* (Nashville, Tennessee), May 9, 1978, 15.

³⁸ Photograph, *The Knoxville News-Sentinel* (Knoxville, Tennessee) November 8, 1966, 10.

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In addition to regular political elections, the Scott County Courthouse was also the location for National Labor Relations Board elections to designate an independent union to become the bargaining agent for coal miners across three counties. Public hearings were held in the Scott County Courthouse to determine if an election could take place as well as to discuss the legality of an ongoing United Mining Workers strike in 1959. The employees of the Dean Coal Company and the Phillips Brothers Coal Company voted in Huntsville in 1959; a preliminary hearing was also held in the courthouse to predetermine the legality of the election and whether the locally organized Scott County Miners Union was a qualified labor organization.³⁹ The courthouse also served as a backup location for municipal elections, such as the 1977 City of Oneida election.⁴⁰

The Scott County Courthouse has also hosted club meetings, such as the Scott County Republican Women's Club, organized in 1956.⁴¹ When Estes Kefauver began his presidential campaign in 1952, a "Kefauver-for-President Club" organized at the Scott County Courthouse.⁴² The Courthouse also served as the location for public sales and project bid openings.

The Scott County Courthouse historically housed local courts (1948-2008) and county offices (1948-present), including the Register of Deeds, Scott County Clerk, the Assessor of Property, and the office of the greater district's Attorney General. Through at least the 1970s, the courthouse also served as the local polling location, the location where Howard Henry Baker, Jr. was documented as casting his vote on more than one occasion (see Figure 7). The importance of rural Scott County's Courthouse as a centralized local government administrative center during the mid-twentieth century is further evidenced by the local prioritization of quickly replacing the third courthouse after the devastating fire in December 1946. The Scott County Courthouse is also historically significant under the theme of social history, providing space for social gatherings, including political campaign rallies, special elections, public hearings, and local club meetings. Regular community celebrations have included July 4th celebrations and Howard Baker Day. Like many other municipalities, Scott County executed a grand Bicentennial Celebration in 1976. Taking place between July 2 and July 4 that year, celebrations included more than 50 projects. Senator Howard H. Baker, Jr., delivered the address, and the County hosted an arts and crafts fair on the Huntsville Mall, a wide strip of grassy lawn stretching north of the courthouse to Baker Highway. The county recognized their unique history by dedicating both the Revolutionary War Memorial Marker and the "Independent State of Scott" Historic Marker (see above). The former was installed near the north entrance to the courthouse, the latter was originally installed at the north end of the Huntsville Mall and later relocated near the Revolutionary

³⁹ "ET Miners Vote Aug. 26," *The Knoxville Journal* (Knoxville, Tennessee), August 20, 1959, 2; "NLRB Rules Miners Can Elect Agent," *The LaFollette Press*, (LaFollette, Tennessee) August 13, 1959, 1; "Miners' Group Asks Own Union," *The Tennessean*, (Nashville, Tennessee) June 16, 1959, 16.

⁴⁰ "Voters in Oneida's Pine Hill Precinct May Go to Huntsville to Cast Ballots," *The Knoxville News-Sentinel*, (Knoxville, Tennessee), November 5, 1977, 8; "Alderman Jeffers Elected Vice Mayor of Oneida," *The Knoxville News-Sentinel* (Knoxville, Tennessee), November 6, 1977, 37.

⁴¹ "Scott County GOP Women Organize Club," *The Knoxville Journal* (Knoxville, Tennessee), Sept 20, 1956, 18.

⁴² "Kefauver Boosters Form in Scott County," *The Knoxville News-Sentinel*, (Knoxville, Tennessee), January 8, 1952, 8.

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War Memorial Marker.⁴³ Later in the bicentennial year, the Scott County Bicentennial Committee buried a time capsule containing historical records and photographs in the courthouse yard (see above).⁴⁴

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 Scott County Courthouse site has witnessed the erection of numerous memorials and monuments over the decades. While only the two objects installed during the 1976 bicentennial celebration, the Revolutionary War Memorial Marker and the Time Capsule Marker, are considered contributing due to dates of installation and/or relocation, the noncontributing objects also contribute to this theme, as well as those objects that have been removed, such as the USS Tennessee brass bell. The interpretive markers and monuments at the Scott County Courthouse celebrate the county's unique past and honor war veterans. Between the varied objects located immediately adjacent to the courthouse building, the Scott County Courthouse is an "interpretive space for local historic 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 from whom there is not a more appropriate location."⁴⁵

Court is now held at the Scott County Justice Center, which opened in 2008 and is located approximately 2.3 miles west of the historic courthouse. Many county judicial offices also relocated to the new Justice Center building at that time. The offices of the Scott County Mayor, Trustee, Election Commission, Office on Aging, and Veterans Services are located at the Scott County Office Building, completed in the 1990s and located approximately 0.25 miles northwest of the historic courthouse. Today, the historic Scott County Courthouse houses the offices of Scott County Clerk, Register of Deeds, and the Assessor of Property, and the courtroom is presently in use by the Scott County Historical Society.⁴⁶

⁴³ "Sen. Baker to Speak at Scott County Bicentennial Celebration," *The Knoxville News-Sentinel*, (Knoxville, Tennessee) June 20, 1976, 6.

⁴⁴ "Scott to Bury Time Capsule," *The Knoxville News-Sentinel*, (Knoxville, Tennessee), December 17, 1976, 9.

⁴⁵ Schmitt, MPDF, 58.

⁴⁶ Scott County, Tennessee, "Courthouse," accessed on March 12, 2026. <https://scottcounty.com/government/county-facilities/courthouse/>; Scott County, "Our History."

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

The Scott County Courthouse meets the registration requirements of the “Historic County Government Facilities in Tennessee, ca. 1770-2025” MPDF under Property Type 2: Courthouse. The Scott County Courthouse served as the main county building for the Scott County government throughout the period of significance (1948-1976).

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 Scott County Courthouse is centrally located within Huntsville’s public square (or town square) and Scott County hired Knoxville architect Clement H. Meyer to professionally design the building, who imbedded Colonial Revival architectural features, such as limestone door surrounds and belt courses, and brick embedded pilasters, which help the courthouse stand out within Huntsville’s local architectural context. The Scott County Courthouse historically housed critical administration offices and the county courtrooms.⁴⁷

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 Scott County Courthouse includes two contributing objects, a time capsule marker and a Revolutionary War soldiers memorial, located on the courthouse grounds directly adjacent to the building.⁴⁸

The MPDF stipulates that courthouses must retain integrity to convey their significance. As the Scott County Courthouse is being nominated under Criterion A, the MPDF suggests the most critical integrity to retain is that of association. As outlined above in Section 7, the Scott County Courthouse retains integrity of association. As the MPDF points out, alterations of public buildings are common due to their public use. Despite changes made over time to keep up with these demands, the Scott County Courthouse retains many historic features, including the character-defining clock tower, and the major floorplan and circulation routes remain unchanged. The courtroom flooring has been carpeted, drop acoustic ceiling panels have been installed, and it has been repurposed for use by the Scott County Historical Society and records storage; however, the footprint remains unchanged and it retains its original access points, doors, wainscoting, and the judge’s bench.⁴⁹

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 conservation.⁵⁰ As evidenced above in Section 8 of this nomination, the Scott County Courthouse is historically significant within the Criterion A context outlined by the MPDF, or “Context 1: The Role of Tennessee County Governments in Local Life.”⁵¹ Specifically, the Scott County Courthouse is historically significant under the themes of politics/government and social history. As such, the Scott 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

⁴⁷ Schmitt, MPDF, 169-170.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Ibid., 3.

⁵¹ Ibid. 4-64.

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provide, a centralized location for critical county functions as well as a social gathering place for community events and commemorations.

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Scott County Courthouse

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Scott County Courthouse
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Scott County Courthouse
Name of Property

Scott County, Tennessee
County and State

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

Scott County Courthouse
Name of Property

Scott County, Tennessee
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.53 USGS Quadrangle Huntsville 128-NW

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84:
N/A

1. Northwest Corner	Latitude: 36.409742	Longitude: -84.490799
2. Northeast Corner	Latitude: 36.409786	Longitude: -84.490492
3. Southeast Corner	Latitude: 36.409120	Longitude: -84.490333
4. Southwest Corner	Latitude: 36.409072	Longitude: -84.490642

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries correspond to the current legal parcel boundary of Scott County Parcel 086N C 003.00. The Scott County Courthouse parcel occupies approximately 0.53 acres, bounded by Woodland Place to the north and Court Street to the east. A public parking lot located on a neighboring parcel lies adjacent to the Courthouse parcel to the south and a pedestrian boardwalk forms the parcel's west boundary. The historic primary entrance to the Courthouse (east elevation) fronts Court Street. Historically secondary entrances are located along the side elevations (north and south elevations). These boundaries are depicted on the enclosed Boundary Map below.

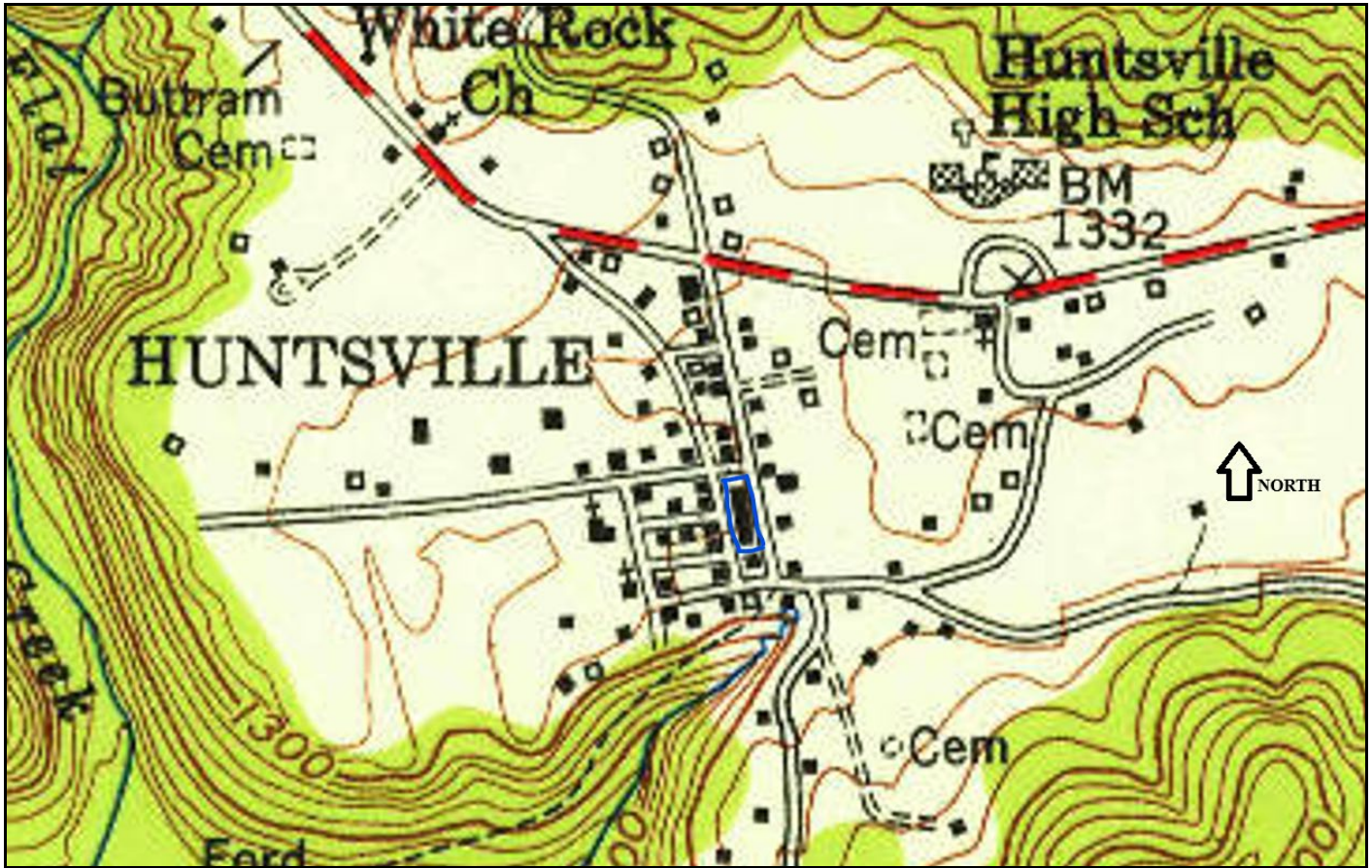
Boundary Justification

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

Scott County Courthouse
Name of Property

Scott County, Tennessee
County and State

USGS Topographic Map

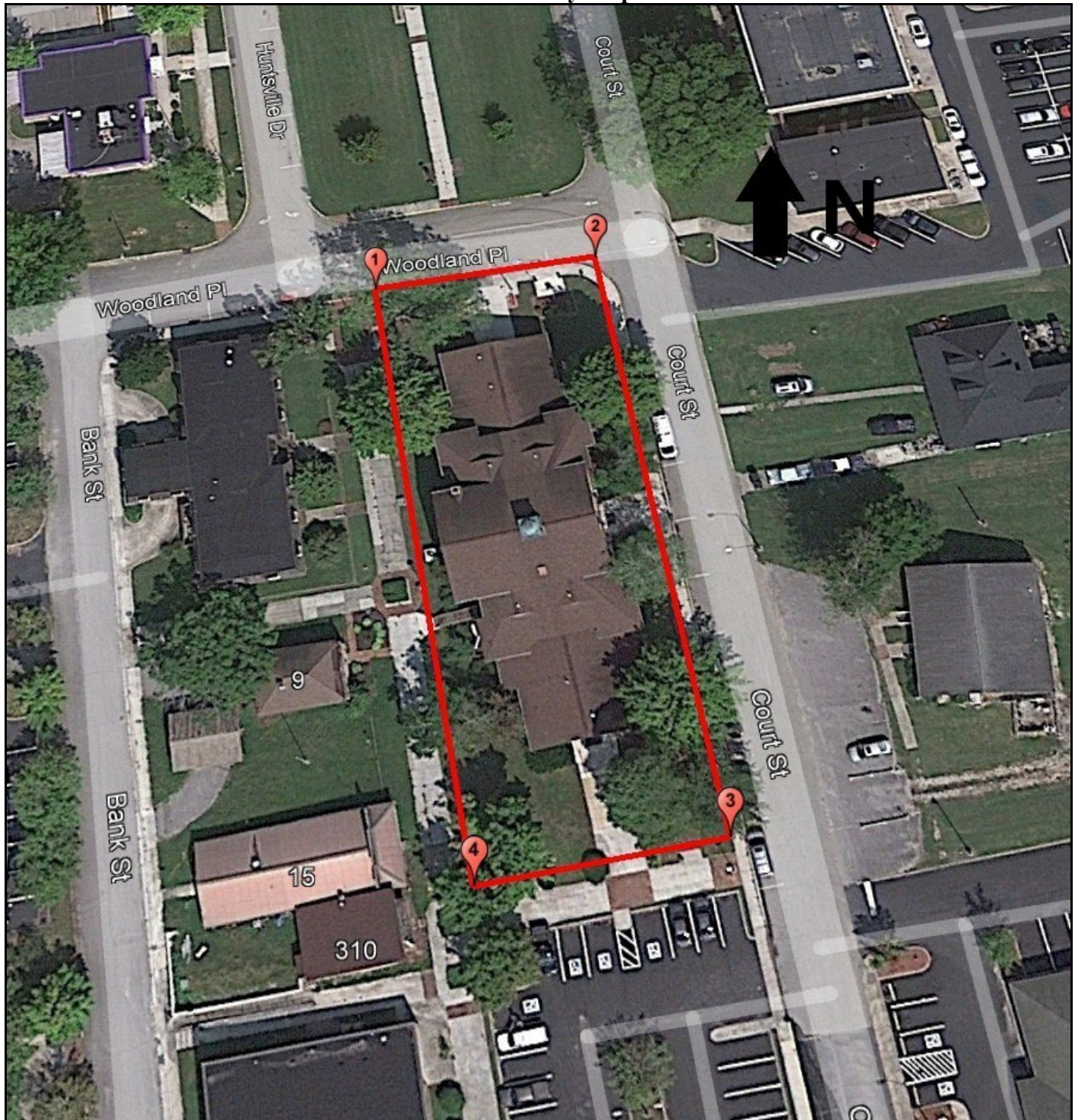


Portion of USGS Huntsville Quadrangle (128-NW), Tennessee, 7.5-minute series topographic map, original scale 1:24,000, 1953, showing the location of the Scott County Courthouse property, indicated by a blue boundary (at center). North arrow included at right.

Scott County Courthouse
Name of Property

Scott County, Tennessee
County and State

Boundary Map



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

Scott County Courthouse
Name of Property

Scott County, Tennessee
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

Name	Sarah Anderson		
Organization	East Tennessee Development District		
Street & Number	P. O. Box 249	Date	May 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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Photographs & Plans Page 36

Scott County Courthouse

Name of Property

Scott, Tennessee

County and State

Historic County Government Facilities in
Tennessee, ca. 1770-2025 (formerly Historic
County Courthouses in Tennessee, 1865-1945)

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Photo Log

Name of Property: Scott County Courthouse
City or Vicinity: Huntsville
County: Scott County State: Tennessee
Photographer: Sarah Anderson
Date Photographed: October 22, 2024; May 20, 2026

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

- 1 of 39. Façade (east elevation). Photographer facing northwest.
- 2 of 39. Façade and north elevations. Photographer facing southwest.
- 3 of 39. Façade entry, showing the decorative limestone surround and arched pediment. The noncontributing John Lewallen memorial is visible at bottom right. Photographer facing southwest.
- 4 of 39. North elevation. The noncontributing Colonel Joseph Cecil monument is at far left and the noncontributing flagpole is at center left. Photographer facing south.
- 5 of 39. North elevation and the four objects located north of the courthouse building. Moving left to right: the noncontributing "Independent State of Scott" historic marker (far left); the noncontributing courthouse sign (center left); the contributing time capsule marker (background center right); and the contributing Revolutionary War memorial marker (foreground right). Photographer facing southeast.
- 6 of 39. West (rear) elevation. Photographer facing southeast.
- 7 of 39. West (rear) elevation. Photographer facing east.
- 8 of 39. West (rear) and south elevations. Photographer facing northeast.
- 9 of 39. South elevation. Photographs facing north.
- 10 of 39. Clock tower. Photographer facing north.
- 11 of 39. North entry foyer. Photographer facing south.
- 12 of 39. Primary hallway. Photographer facing south.
- 13 of 39. Primary hallway. Photographer facing north.
- 14 of 39. Secondary hallway, accessing east entrance. Photographer facing east.

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Photographs & Plans Page 37

Scott County Courthouse

Name of Property

Scott, Tennessee

County and State

Historic County Government Facilities in
Tennessee, ca. 1770-2025 (formerly Historic
County Courthouses in Tennessee, 1865-1945)

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

- 15 of 39. East entry foyer. Photographer facing southeast.
- 16 of 39. Overview of the County Clerk's office on first floor. Photographer facing northwest.
- 17 of 39. Office space on first floor. Photographer facing northwest.
- 18 of 39. County Clerk's vault on first floor. Photographer facing southwest.
- 19 of 39. Office space on first floor. Photographer facing southwest.
- 20 of 39. Register of Deeds office on first floor. Photographer facing north.
- 21 of 39. Register of Deeds workspace on first floor. Photographer facing west.
- 22 of 39. Hallway to Register of Deeds Vault on first floor. Photographer facing south.
- 23 of 39. Assessor of Property office on first floor. Photographer facing south.
- 24 of 39. Assessor of Property office and workspace on first floor. Photographer facing north.
- 25 of 39. Assessor of Property workspace on first floor. Photographer facing northwest.
- 26 of 39. Assessor of Property workspace on first floor. Photographer facing west.
- 27 of 39. North stairway to second floor. Photographer facing east.
- 28 of 39. Second floor landing. Photographer facing east.
- 29 of 39. North hallway on second floor. Photographer facing west.
- 30 of 39. Courtroom, presently the Scott County Historical Society. Photographer facing northwest.
- 31 of 39. Courtroom, presently the Scott County Historical Society. Photographer facing southeast.
- 32 of 39. Storage space on second floor. Photographer facing east.
- 33 of 39. Break room on second floor. Photographer facing southwest.
- 34 of 39. Storage space on second floor. Photographer facing northwest.
- 35 of 39. Stairway to basement. Photographer facing east.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Photographs & Plans Page 38

Scott County Courthouse

Name of Property

Scott, Tennessee

County and State

Historic County Government Facilities in
Tennessee, ca. 1770-2025 (formerly Historic
County Courthouses in Tennessee, 1865-1945)

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

- 36 of 39. Basement hallway. Photographer facing east.
- 37 of 39. Example of opening in basement. Photographer facing east.
- 38 of 39. Storage space in basement Photographer facing east.
- 39 of 39. Basement. Photographer facing south.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Photographs & Plans Page 39

Scott County Courthouse

Name of Property

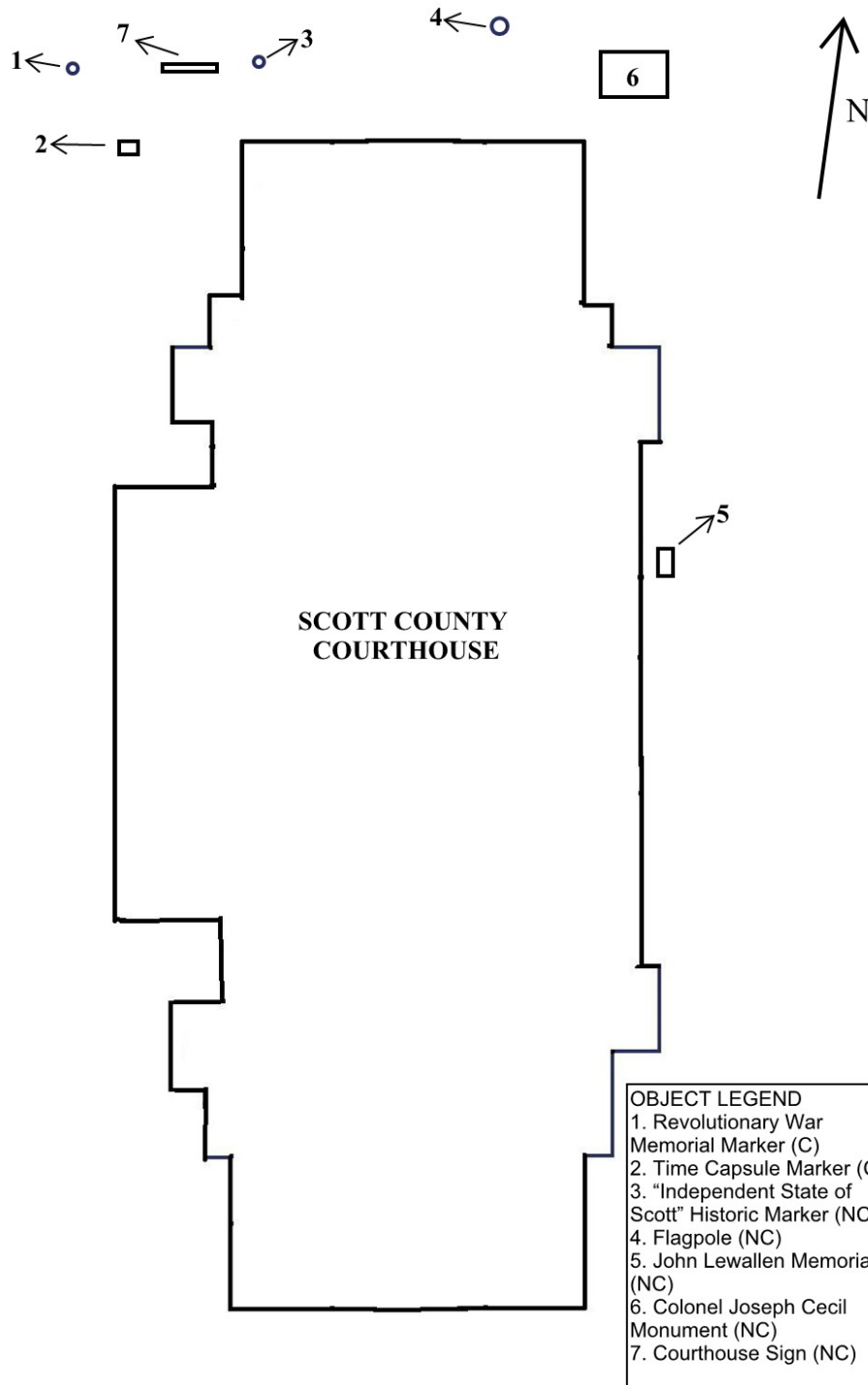
Scott, Tennessee

County and State

Historic County Government Facilities in
Tennessee, ca. 1770-2025 (formerly Historic
County Courthouses in Tennessee, 1865-1945)

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Site Plan: Not to scale.



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Scott County Courthouse

Name of Property

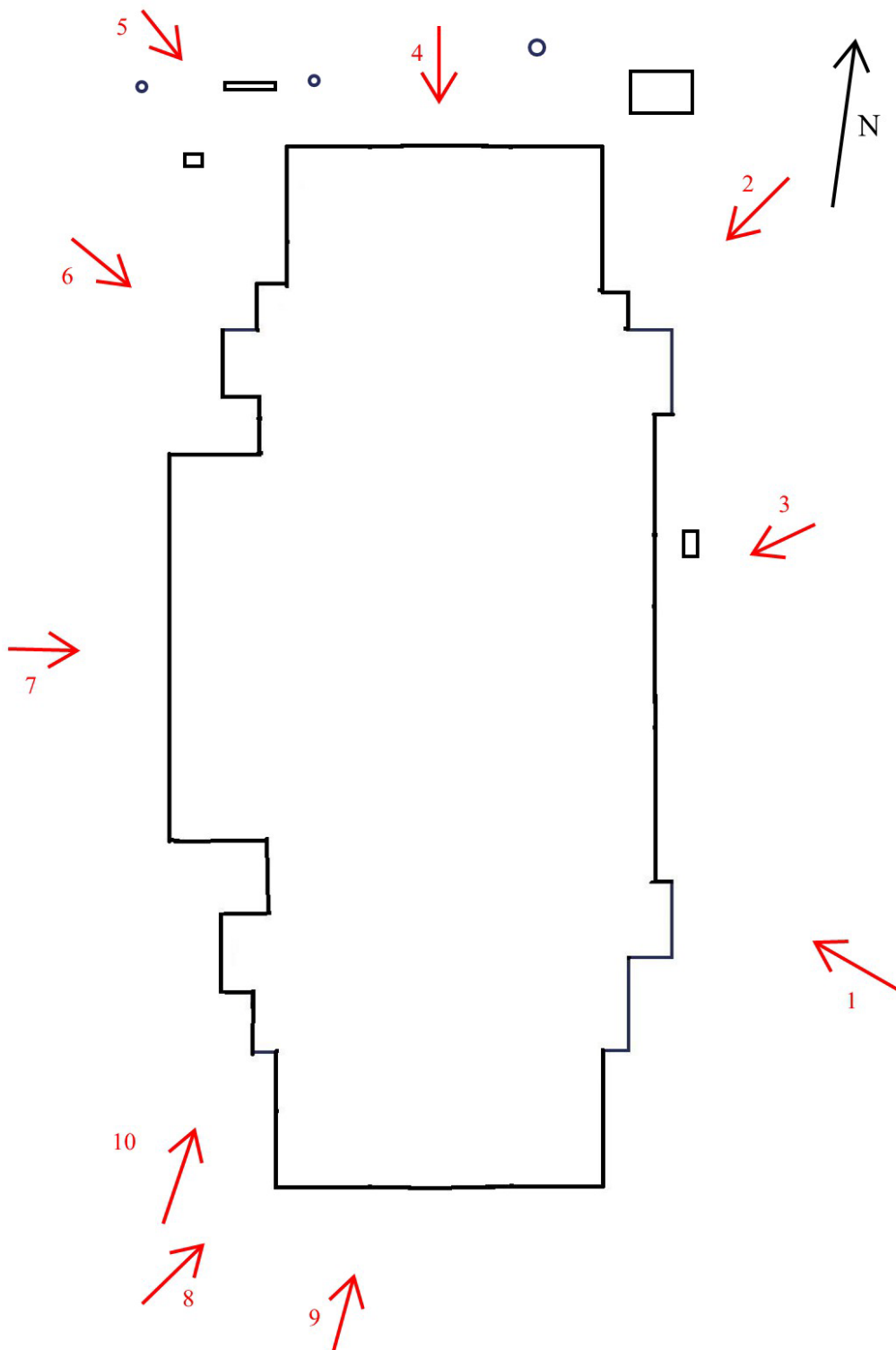
Scott, Tennessee

County and State

Historic County Government Facilities in
Tennessee, ca. 1770-2025 (formerly Historic
County Courthouses in Tennessee, 1865-1945)

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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



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Scott County Courthouse

Name of Property

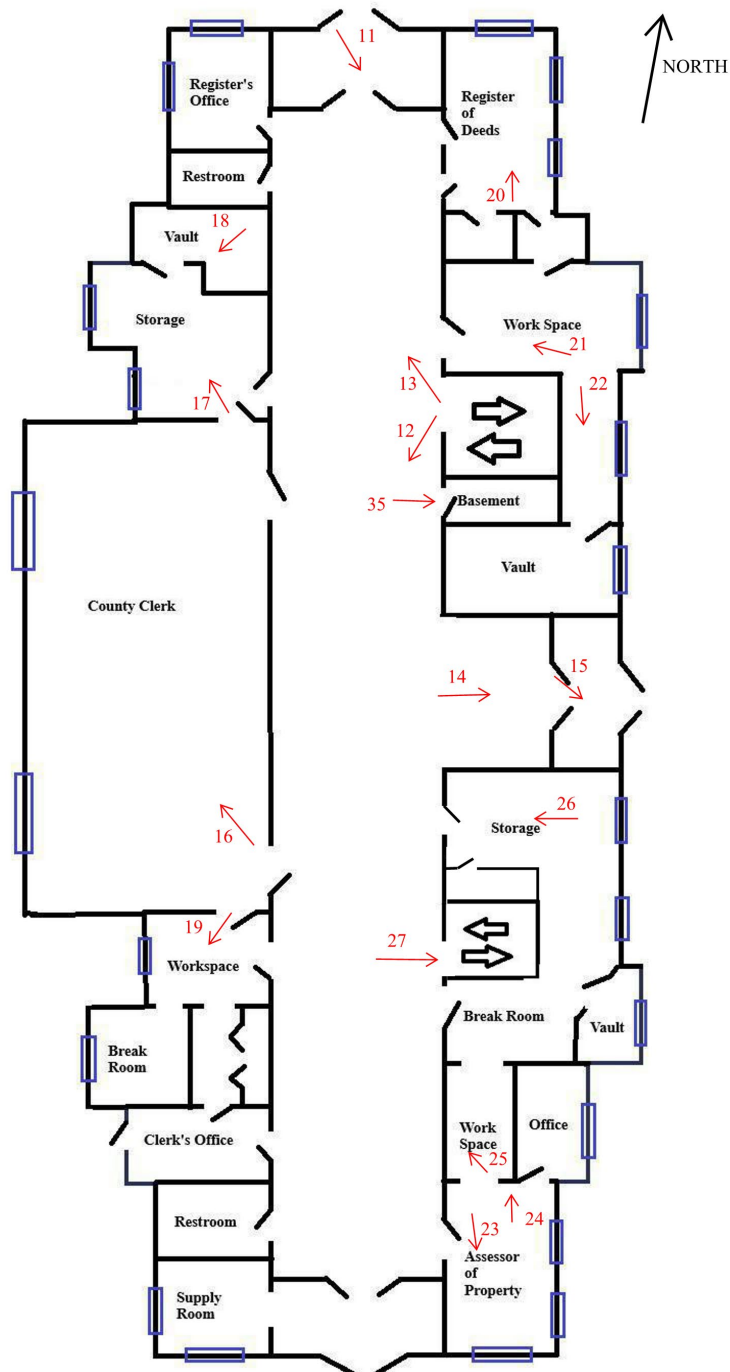
Scott, Tennessee

County and State

Historic County Government Facilities in
Tennessee, ca. 1770-2025 (formerly Historic
County Courthouses in Tennessee, 1865-1945)

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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



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Section Photographs & Plans Page 42

Scott County Courthouse

Name of Property

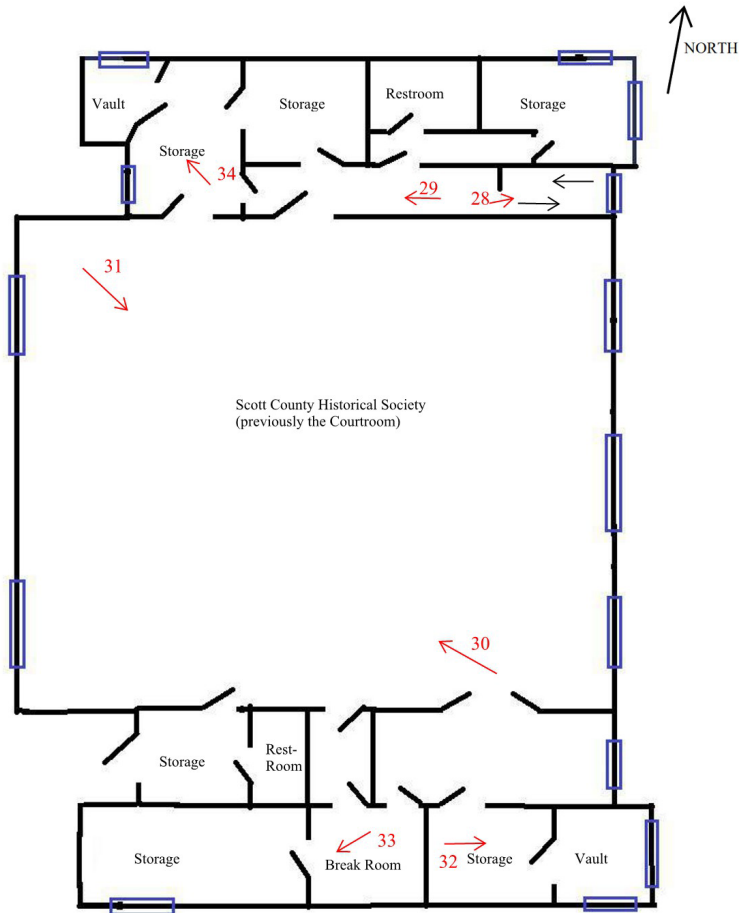
Scott, Tennessee

County and State

Historic County Government Facilities in
Tennessee, ca. 1770-2025 (formerly Historic
County Courthouses in Tennessee, 1865-1945)

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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



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Section Photographs & Plans Page 43

Scott County Courthouse

Name of Property

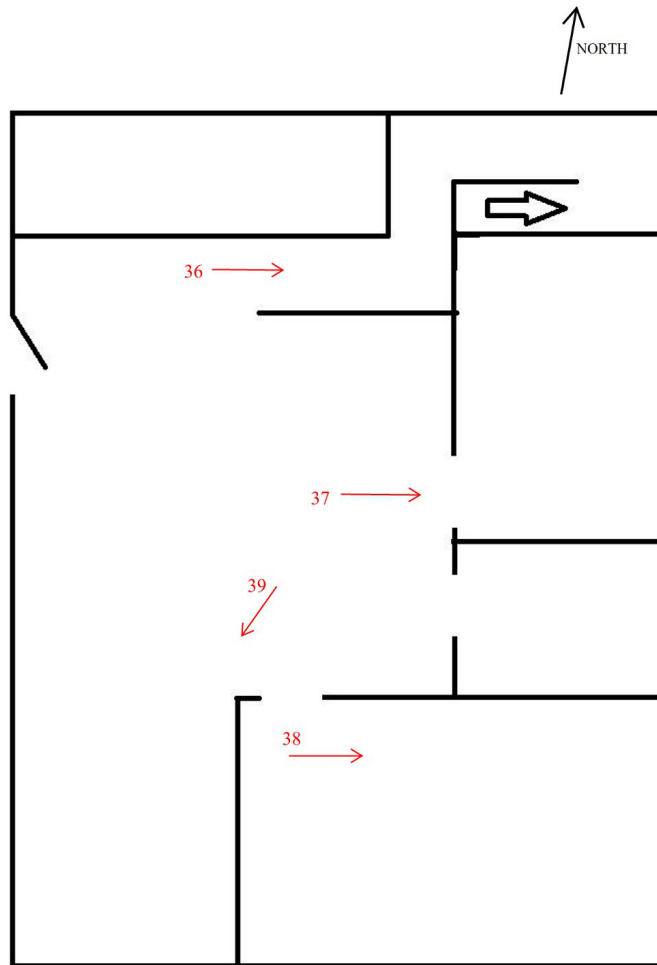
Scott, Tennessee

County and State

Historic County Government Facilities in
Tennessee, ca. 1770-2025 (formerly Historic
County Courthouses in Tennessee, 1865-1945)

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Floor Plan: Basement photo key. (Not to scale.)



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 Scott County
Street &
Number 2845 Baker Hwy Telephone 423-663-2000
City or Town Huntsville State/Zip TN / 37756

Additional contacts:

- Scott County Mayor
 - o Mayor Jerried Jeffers: (423) 215-7016 (cell)
- Scott County Historical Society
 - o David Jeffers: (423) 215-9657 (cell)

**SCOTT COUNTY COURTHOUSE
HUNTSVILLE, SCOTT, TENNESSEE**



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**SCOTT COUNTY COURTHOUSE
HUNTSVILLE, SCOTT, TENNESSEE**



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SCOTT COUNTY COURTHOUSE
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SCOTT COUNTY COURTHOUSE
HUNTSVILLE, SCOTT, TENNESSEE



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**SCOTT COUNTY COURTHOUSE
HUNTSVILLE, SCOTT, TENNESSEE**



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SCOTT COUNTY COURTHOUSE
HUNTSVILLE, SCOTT, TENNESSEE



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SCOTT COUNTY COURTHOUSE
HUNTSVILLE, SCOTT, TENNESSEE



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**SCOTT COUNTY COURTHOUSE
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**SCOTT COUNTY COURTHOUSE
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**SCOTT COUNTY COURTHOUSE
HUNTSVILLE, SCOTT, TENNESSEE**



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HUNTSVILLE, SCOTT, TENNESSEE



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SCOTT COUNTY COURTHOUSE
HUNTSVILLE, SCOTT, TENNESSEE



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