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Contract For The First Court House In Lincoln County Tennessee

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Not much is known about the appearance of the first Madison County, Alabama Court House, other than the fact that it was a two-story brick structure probably in the Federal style. Since it was built at about the same time (it is thought to have been completed no later than 1816) as the neighboring Lincoln County, Tennessee Court House, construction methods and materials were undoubtedly very similar. One can better imagine the appearance of both buildings from the following specifications, an exact copy of the original contract for the first Lincoln County Court House in Fayetteville, Tennessee.]

REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM **THE VOLUNTEER**, SPRING 1977,
p. 12, JOURNAL OF THE LINCOLN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

To be let Thursday the 22nd
of November 1810.

The building of a Court House
for the County of Lincoln in
the Town of Fayetteville.

Dimensions:

40 feet square, the walls to
be of brick and the founda-
tion of stone. The foundation
wall to be 2-1/2 feet thick,
sunk 2 feet under ground and
raised 3 feet above ground.
The brick wall to contain 2
stories in height, the lower
story to be 15 feet high in
the clear, the wall to be

2-1/2 brick thick, the second
story to be 12 feet high, 2
brick thick, the lower floor
to be laid with brick edge
up, the second floor to be
supported by a girder 14
inches square, the joist to
be 14 inches by 4, all of
good yellow poplar, the joist
to be placed two feet apart
center to center, the floor
to be of good quartered yel-
low poplar 1-1/2 inches
thick, well tongued and
grooved, the girder to be
supported by 2 good strong
well turned walnut posts, the
posts to stand upon a well
founded pillar of stone. The

stone not to be seen above the floor, the second floor to be well ceiled underneath with good quartered yellow poplar planks, the second tier of joists to be 10 inches by 4 placed 2 feet apart from center to center to be ceiled underneath with good quartered yellow poplar planks neatly planed and beaded. The roof to be of good poplar or chestnut joint shingles, and to be well sheated with yellow poplar planks, inch thick on good sufficient rafters with cornice medallion, and the roof to be well painted red immediately after covered in, a fireplace of customary size, to be made in each corner of the second story, the stairs to begin in the North west corner of the lower story and to land in the center of the North side of the house in a 8 foot passage, the east side of the passage to be cut through the center of a partition through it East and West, the passage and partition walls to be made of 1-1/2 inch plank of yellow poplar, stairs to be put up with banister and hand rail with doors of customary size to be in the center of the South, West and North sides with a row of lights 8 X 10 over each door, 16 24-light windows in the lower story, the glass to be 8 X 10 and 16 windows in the upper story. Sixteen lights in each and a door to open out of the pas-

sage into each room, the shutters to the upper doors to be single panel doors, the shutters to the lower doors to be panel doors well lined with a good and sufficient double lock to the South door that is a spring bolt and one to turn by key, and good bolts to the other two doors, with good stone steps to each door, and good bolts and spring locks to the upper doors, also window shutters and bolts to the lower story, the door and window shutters and facing painted white, the Judges Seat, the Clerk Seat and Bar and Jury Box to be fixed in the same manner as the Court House in Nashville, all to be done in a neat workmanlike manner, any person or persons who undertakes the Public Buildings, Bond and Security will be required by the Commissioners. The Building is to be completed by the First Day of November 1813.

Commissioners John Whitaker
 James Stuart
 Eli Garrett
 Hardy Holman
 W. Edmiston

Contract let to Macajah and William Muckleroy for \$3,935.00.

Stocks received of James Miller by Vance Greer and John P. McConnell, Commissioners. Nov. 27, 1811.

