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Contract For The First Court House In Lincoln County Tennessee

Historic Huntsville Foundation

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[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 foundation 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 yellow 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
sheathed with yellow poplar
planks, inch thick on good
sufficient rafters with cornice
medallion, and the roof
to be well painted red imme-
diately 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 par-
tition through it East and
West, the passage and parti-
tion 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 per-
sion 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 Garett
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, Commis-
sioners. Nov. 27, 1811.