

ADDED 10-30-72

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	ILLINOIS	
COUNTY:	McDONOUGH	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	

1. NAME

COMMON: McDonough County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Public Square

CITY OR TOWN: Macomb

STATE: Illinois CODE: COUNTY: McDonough CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes: Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: McDonough County Board of Supervisors

STREET AND NUMBER: McDonough County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Macomb STATE: Illinois CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Macomb STATE: Illinois CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Federal Writers Project, WPA  
A Descriptive and Historical Guide of Illinois

DATE OF SURVEY: 1939  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Archives Building

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Springfield STATE: Illinois CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Illinois  
COUNTY: McDonough  
ENTRY NUMBER:  
DATE:

**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The site of the building is in the center of a well-proportioned public square.

Originally, the building, completed in 1871, had a mansard roof with vari-colored slate, cast-iron cresting, dormer windows, fully embellished chimneys with cast iron caps, etc. In 1880, this was removed entirely, and the present wood and timber hip roof with brick gables was installed. The lower stories are brick walls with limestone quoins (all presently painted).

Interior floors are marble and slate tiles supported by wrought iron beams and corrugated metal arches ( a very early use of this system). Stairs and landings are all cast iron.

It is proposed by the County Board to restore the mansard roof, chimneys, etc, to the original condition, thereby gaining the use of the entire third floor (presently unused). Extensive interior remodelling is proposed to make the building usable for another half century. Exterior work will restore the building to its 1871 condition.

**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian<sup>1</sup>       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1869-1871

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | losophy                                 | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art          | Architecture                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | itarian                                 | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Elijah E. Myers, the architect for the Courthouse, moved from Springfield, Illinois, to Detroit, Michigan, in 1871 where he established what must have been one of the largest practices in the US for the period, doing five State Capitols, innumerable Courthouses and public buildings in many foreign countries. He designed many other courthouses in Illinois but only one earlier than the McDonough County Courthouse building (in Macoupin County).

The Second Empire style was short-lived and good examples in this country are fast disappearing. There is no doubt that this Courthouse will be destroyed if the renovations proposed are not carried out.

The significance of the building lies in the exuberance of its embellishments (the period is rightly called "The Age of Elegance"), the monumentality of its interior spaces and the strength of its composition and setting in what only 35 years earlier had been a village square containing a log cabin Courthouse in the middle of the unbroken prairie.

The renovation of the building will: (1) ensure its usability as a courts building for at least another half century (2) provide a concrete link with the past for citizens of McDonough County and the people of this state (3) save an outstanding example of early courthouse design in the prairie states as well as a strong specimen of the Second Empire Revival style, and (4) provide an impetus to the City of Macomb to revise outdated traffic patterns on the square and thereby restore some dignity to the pedestrian, and to make visible the commitment of government to the upgrading of an otherwise deteriorating central business district.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Clarke, S.J., History of McDonough County, Illinois, Springfield, Illinois, 1878, pp. 247-253.  
Cyclopedia of Michigan: Historical and Biographical, New York, 1900, pp. 314-315.  
Western Architecture, April 1909, (Obituary, E.E. Myers).  
 Withey, Biographical Dictionary of Architects (Deceased), Los Angeles, 1970.  
 "Description of the McDonough County Court House to be Erected in the City of Macomb," in Macomb Journal, 27 Nov 1868.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 . "	0 . "		40 27 33.25	90 39 57.4	
NE	0 . "	0 . "				
SE	0 . "	0 . "				
SW	0 . "	0 . "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **2.62**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Wm. B. Coney, Architect**

ORGANIZATION: **Wm. B. Coney & Associates**      DATE: **8 December 71**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**123 1/2 S. Side Square**

CITY OR TOWN: **Macomb**      STATE: **Illinois 61455**      CODE:

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National     State     Local

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Keeper of The National Register*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE ILLINOIS	
COUNTY McDONOUGH	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

9. (continued)

- "New Court House," in Macomb Journal, 6 August 1869.  
"Corner Stone Laying," in Macomb Journal, 20 August 1869.  
"To Roof the Court House," in Macomb Journal, 2 May 1889.  
"Minutes of the Board of Supervisors, McDonough County,  
Illinois," 10 July 1889 and subsequent. (Payments for  
new roof on court house.)

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered OCT 30 1972

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
McDonough County Courthouse	Macomb McDonough County

**COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION**

Also Notified

Hon. Charles H. Percy  
Hon. Adlai E. Stevenson, III  
Hon. Paul Findley

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ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

SURVEY USE ONLY

MD-4-313

1. Name of Site:

Common McDonough County Courthouse

Archeology  
 Architecture  
 History

200753

2. Location:

Street and Number                      Township                      Section  
 Public Square  
 City or Town                      Zip Code                      Range                      ¼ Section  
 Macomb  
 County  
 McDonough

3. Classification:

Category (check one)

District                       Building  
 Site                               Structure

Integrity (check one)

Altered                       Unaltered

Position (check one)

Moved                       Original Site

4. Ownership:

Private  
 Public

Status (check one)

Occupied                       Preservation work  
 Unoccupied                      in progress

Access to Public

Yes                       Restricted                       Unrestricted                       No

Present Use (check one or more)

Agricultural  
 Commercial  
 Educational  
 Entertainment  
 Government

Industrial  
 Military  
 Museum  
 Park  
 Private Residence

Religious  
 Scientific  
 Transportation  
 Other (specify)

5. Ownership of Property:

Owner's Name                      Phone Number  
 McDonough County Board of Supervisors  
 Street and Number  
 McDonough County Courthouse  
 City or Town  
 Macomb

State                      County                      Zip Code  
 Illinois                      McDonough

6. Description:

Condition

Excellent                       Good                       Fair                       Deteriorated                       Ruins                       Unexposed

Is there a program of preservation underway?                      Yes                      No

7. Historical Themes: (check one or more of the following)

Archeological Site                      (pre-Columbian)  
 Archeological Site                      (post-Columbian to 1673)  
 French Influence                      (1673-1780)  
 Illinois Frontier                      (1780-1818)  
 Illinois Early                      (1818-1850)  
 Illinois Middle                      (1850-1900)  
 Illinois Late                      (1900-Present)  
 Famous People                      (Give names and dates)

GOVERNMENT

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8. Specific Date: 1869-1871

Areas of Significance (check one or more of the following)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (historic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (prehistoric)         | <input type="checkbox"/> Military                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture          | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industry                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Invention                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture           |  |

Brief statement of significance: (include all names and dates)  
Use additional sheets if necessary.

9. Form prepared by:

Name and Title: Wm. B. Coney, Architect Date: 12/8/71

Organization: Wm. B. Coney & Associates

Street and Number: 123 1/2 South Side Square

City or Town: Macomb County: McDonough Zip Code: 61455

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

During the course of the Survey we often find it necessary to search for references for a particular site. When filling out the " Survey form, please list according to the following example, published references to the site for which forms are being completed. If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly diduct from the Survey 's task.

Bibliography:

Roberston, Robert, Of Whales and Men, New York, Allfred K. Knopf, Inc., 1954.

Clarke, S. J., History of McDobough County, Illinois, Springfield, Illinois, 1878, pp.247-253

Cyclpedia of Michigan: Historical and Biographical, New York, 1900, pp. 314-315

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