

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: PUTNAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE
other name/site number:

2. Location

street & number: 3389 Winfield Road not for publication: N/A
city/town: Winfield vicinity: N/A
state: WV county: Putnam code: 079 zip code: 25213

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally X statewide X locally.

Susan M. Perce May 31, 2000
Signature of Certifying Official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau Date

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of Certifying Official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau Date

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of Keeper	Date of Action
_____ entered in the National Register _____ See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
_____ determined eligible for the National Register _____ See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
_____ determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
_____ removed from the National Register	_____	_____
_____ other (explain): _____ _____ _____	_____	_____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property:
 (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
 (Check only one box)

- _____ private
- public-local
- _____ public-State
- _____ public-Federal

- building(s)
- _____ district
- _____ site
- _____ structure
- _____ object

Number of Resources within Property
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Non-contributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
1		objects
2	0	TOTAL

Name of related multiple property listing _____ N/A _____
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _____ 0 _____

Putnam County Courthouse
Name of Property

Putnam County, WV
County and State

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

Current Functions

GOVERNMENT: Courthouse

GOVERNMENT: Courthouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Materials

LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque Revival

Foundation: Stone
Walls: Brick
Roof: Asphalt
Other: _____

Narrative Description
(See continuation on sheets.)

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.

Putnam County Courthouse
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Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

Politics/Government

Period of Significance

1900-1950

Significant Dates

1900

ca.1921

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Milburn, Frank Pierce, Architect

Narrative Statement of Significance

(See continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of Repository: Putnam County Historic Landmarks Commission

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Approximately 2 Acres.

UTM References

Quad Map: Winfield

17 422245 4265200
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(See continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(See continuation sheet.)

Putnam County Courthouse
Name of Property

Putnam County, WV
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Alan R. Rowe, West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office
with Jim Hines, Putnam County Historic Landmarks Commission

Organization: West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office Date: 11/19/1999

Street & Number: 1900 Kanawha Blvd. East Telephone: (304) 558-0220

City or Town: Charleston State: WV Zip: 25305-0300

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

Name: Putnam County Commission

Street & Number: 3389 Winfield Road

City or Town: Winfield State: WV Zip: 25213

United States Department of the Interior
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Putnam County Courthouse
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Architectural Description:

Facing northwest toward the town of Winfield, the Romanesque Revival Putnam County Courthouse stands at the edge of a terrace above the Kanawha River. Mature hardwood trees grow around the building on a well-kept grassy lawn that slopes down to a low concrete retaining wall. A gradually descending concrete stairway begins at the front entrance of the courthouse and ends at a sidewalk along US 35. Several monuments on the courthouse lawn memorialize the soldiers, police, and fire-fighters of Putnam County. The oldest of these, a circa 1921 WWI Doughboy monument, stands several feet from the northern corner of the original courthouse structure.

Courthouse 1900 Contributing Building

Overall, the original section of the courthouse forms a two story rectangular block with a hip roof and four octagonal towers at each corner. Each corner tower has an eight-sided conical roof. The tower on the western corner holds a clock and stands several feet higher than its counterparts. The walls are laid in common bond brick with several areas of texture, patterns, and corbeling present for visual relief. A rock-faced sandstone perimeter foundation laid in coursed ashlar with raised joints supports the entire structure. Black asphalt composition shingles cover all of the roof surfaces. The building is generally oriented with its corners pointing in the cardinal directions.

Windows are spaced symmetrically across the northwest, or front, facade, with each tower bearing one opening on the first story and one offset 1/1 double-hung sash window on the second story. The first floor window of each tower has been removed and replaced with a solid metal fire-door and a short flight of stairs to reach grade. Each of the window openings has a brick segmental arch above it. Between the two towers, fenestration of the central section is balanced with one 1/1 double-hung sash window up and one down on either side of the main entry. Four alternating stone and brick stringcourses divide the exterior walls of the courthouse into horizontal bands. Open "dog tooth" coursework where the tower wall planes meet creates vertical lines of shadow and texture that intersect the horizontal stringcourse lines.

Sheltering the front door is a flat-roofed portico supported by four ribbed, square brick columns. The portico's fascia is decorated with an incised, curvilinear floral motif. Hanging from the soffit of the portico is a small bell that originally belonged to the Kanawha River steamboat *Blue Ridge*. After the *Blue Ridge* exploded and sank in 1848, the bell was salvaged and used for the first county courthouse, which was under construction at the time. Following the collapse of the first courthouse in 1899, the bell was pulled from the wreckage and hung from the portico of the new courthouse, where it remains today. The main entry and the paired windows directly above are both capped with a stone semicircular arch, which is mirrored in brick on the projecting triangular wall gable that extends above the corbeled cornice line. A rectangular stone panel that reads "1900" is present just above the top stones of the semicircular arch. Another

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stone panel above the brick semicircular arch lists the names of the county commissioners responsible for the courthouse's construction.

The southwest side elevation of the courthouse mirrors the front elevation in all but two details: in the place of the centered main entry of the front elevation there are two paired 1/1 double-hung sash windows and two brick chimneys, one to each side of the projecting triangular wall gable. The chimney to the left of the gable has been removed.

In most details the southeast, or rear, elevation presents a simpler appearance than the others. There are no windows above the semicircular arched entry and no projecting triangular wall gable. A flight of concrete steps with limestone sides rises from the parking lot to the rear door.

Interior spaces in the 1900 courthouse are divided between a basement and two upper floors. In the original plan, county records, coal bunkers, and a boiler for the steam heating system filled the partially excavated basement. On the first floor, an axial, T-shaped corridor runs the depth of the building with doors to the exterior at each end. The top of the "T" runs parallel to the main facade with access to spiral staircases in each of the two front towers at each end. In 1900, offices for record keeping, law enforcement, and judicial functions operated from a series of eight rooms aligned along the axis of the main corridor. A large circuit courtroom took most of the second floor, except a small judge's chamber at the southeast end of the room and two "witness rooms" in each of the two rear towers.

After WWII, the courthouse and county government expanded to meet the demands of increasing population and economic growth. Over a period of twenty years the courthouse doubled in size, with a series of three two-story additions extending from the northeast side of the original 1900 structure. The first addition came in 1953, with further additions in 1963 and 1974. Each addition matches the original structure in materials and general details. In 1988 an interior renovation added an elevator and replaced the original wall and floor surfaces with new materials.

WWI Monument ca. 1921 Contributing Object

Standing to the northeast of the 1900 courthouse on a tall, rectangular grey Vermont granite shaft is a WWI Doughboy statue. The life-sized figure has its head turned to portray the ceremonial drill position of "eyes left." Both hands hold a rifle by the barrel with its butt to the ground. The calf of the right leg is attached to a two-foot tall tree stump for support. A small copper plate on the two-tired base of the monument identifies the maker as the "Sears Monument Co." Each of the four sides displays carvings symbolizing each branch of the military set between Doric triglyphs. Moving clockwise around the shaft, crossed cannon barrels, an anchor, crossed rifles, and crossed cavalry sabers are carved in bas-relief above rectangular, bronze plaques listing the honored dead. The plaque facing northwest on the "artillery" side is more elaborate than the other three, featuring an eagle and Federal shield motif at the top and edges cast to resemble the bound sticks of the Roman fasces.

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Summary:

The Romanesque Revival Putnam County Courthouse and its WWI Doughboy statue continue to reflect their symbolic role within the community of Winfield and the surrounding county. They function as symbols of the historic primacy of local self government and the importance of public commemoration.

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Statement of Significance:

The Putnam County Courthouse is significant under Criterion A for Politics and Government. The period of significance spans the years between 1900 and 1950; this period begins at the year of construction, includes the erection of the WWI monument around 1921, and incorporates a large part of the courthouse's routine history as a center of local government and justice. Although not known for famous legal battles or sweeping historical events, the courthouse functions as a vital, yet unassuming, physical connection to the legal identity, political life, and public memory of Putnam County.

Putnam County came into existence on March 11, 1848, following an act of the General Assembly of Virginia. The General Assembly carved away pieces of Kanawha, Mason, and Cabell Counties to create the new, as yet unnamed, county in Western Virginia. After county offices were organized and trustees appointed or elected, the county took the name of General Israel Putnam, a hero of the Revolutionary War. With the county suitably named, the nascent county government secured lodgings on the banks of the Great Kanawha River in the residence of Tallyrand C. Brown. In order to provide a permanent home for the county court, trustees William A. Alexander, Charles Conner, and Thomas Summers were entrusted to find a suitable place for a courthouse and seek contracts for its construction. They purchased land from Charles and Elizabeth Brown, and after raising \$4,000, secured John Trudgram and T.J. Anderson to build a brick courthouse. Inspired by the American victory in the Mexican War that February, county trustees named the new county seat after General Winfield Scott.

The new town of Winfield, located along the Kanawha River, quickly assumed the role of a busy steamboat port and county seat. Known as Red House Shoals prior to becoming the county seat, the vicinity had long been known as a convenient landing place for boats. The new town quickly became a link in the burgeoning Kanawha River steamboat trade; steamboats with colorful names like *Fairy Queen*, *Oliver H. Perry*, and the unfortunate *Blue Ridge* supplied the town's merchants with consumer goods and hauled away the raw materials of Putnam County's early coal mining and timber industries. Many Putnam County residents, such as Captain James A. Paine and Captain I.B. Parker gained renown among rivermen as skilled navigators. After the end of the Civil War, the region entered an unprecedented phase of economic growth that caused a related increase in the size and responsibilities of county government. By the late 1890s, county officials began to look critically at their fifty year old home, and began to lay plans to replace it.

Faced with a deteriorating building with limited space and crude accommodations, commissioners M. Hensley, E.S. Honaker, and M.V.B. Deal were chosen to seek bids for its replacement. On July 1, 1895, after receiving bids from six contractors, they chose the low bid of A.D. and S.J. Ross of Kenova to work "under the direction and to the satisfaction of Frank P. Milburn Architect. . ." Unfortunately, when Ross Brothers failed to post the \$8,000 bond required to begin construction, the project came to a halt. Finally, after facing the reality that the annual county tax levy was far too small to finance a new structure, the commissioners placed a bond

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issue "before the qualified voters" on the ballot of the November 3rd regular election. The \$15,000 bond was "payable in thirty years or less. . . [with] said bonds to draw interest at 6% payable annually and to be issued in amounts of one hundred dollars each."

Following three years of inaction, the dilapidated 1848 courthouse partially collapsed in a windstorm on the night of September 6, 1899. Finding the old structure "unfit for use and occupancy as a courthouse" the county court moved its proceedings to the local Baptist Church, paying \$2.50 per month in rent. The waning months of 1899 were spent demolishing the remains of the old courthouse to prepare the way for the foundation of the new one. Kenova architect Frank P. Milburn remained to oversee the new construction, with L.C. Tyree working as the contractor. The county took possession of its new building on September 16, 1900, after sixteen months of construction. The total bill for the project ran to \$14,713.31, which included \$1,075 for the installation of a steam heating system.

Frank Pierce Milburn, a popular regional architect, served as a logical choice for the new courthouse project. Up to 1899, he had remodeled the Summers County Courthouse (between 1893 and 1898), and designed new courthouse buildings in McDowell County (1893-1894) and Tucker County (1898-1900). After completing the Putnam County Courthouse, He would later remodel Albert Fink's Berkeley County Courthouse (1855-1856) in 1908, bringing his total number of courthouse projects in West Virginia to five. He was also well known as a courthouse architect in Virginia and Kentucky, but his range of commissions ran the gamut from office buildings and railroad stations to the final design of the South Carolina capitol building (completed 1902). Clearly, the commissioners sought an architect who had an established record that could deliver in terms of design ability and artistic talent. Milburn's brick and stone Romanesque Revival design for the Putnam County Courthouse was archetypical of the style, with heavy, massed forms, octagonal towers, and half-round Roman arches. By 1900 this style appeared repeatedly in structures where the philosophical intent was to impart a feeling of institutional grandeur and solid dignity.

Strangely, the courthouse grounds remained unadorned until after WWI. Courthouse lawns are known as common places to commemorate heroes and wars, but aside from the planting of a number of hardwood trees, nothing appeared on the grounds until 1920 or 1921. At that time, a memorial committee led by H.A. Frazier, J.T. Steele, George Sovine, Robert Zitzelsberger, A.A. McCoy, and Mrs. John S. Burdette, Sr. (one trustee from each of the county's six districts) purchased a Doughboy statue from the Sears Monument Company of Charleston, West Virginia. A special monument fund paid for the costs of construction, including the use of a team of horses, lumber, labor, and supplies. The same fund would be used to pay Mr. W.S. Childers ten dollars a month to perform "custodial" duties at the monument. Final cost of the installation totaled \$9,875.00.

Following WWII, several additions were made to the northeast side of the building, telescoping out with two story additions in 1953, 1963, and 1974. A variety of local architects and contractors worked on these projects: W.J. Sampson built the new record room wing in 1953; R.L. Wilson and J.D. King, architects from St. Albans, designed the 1963 addition with Bowers

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and Chilton of South Charleston serving as contractors; Zando, Martin, & Milstead, Inc. of Charleston designed the 1974 addition with G&R Construction of St. Albans serving as contractor. Each extension of the courthouse reflected the twentieth century growth of the county and the concomitant enlargement of the county judicial system and government services.

Summary:

The Putnam County Courthouse achieves significance under Criterion A due to its century long association with the politics and government of the area. Since 1900, the courthouse has quietly served as a holding place for public records, a center of justice, and as a home to the county government. Around 1921, the courthouse lawn became an important place for public commemoration when the community erected a monument to the casualties of WWI. Taken together, the courthouse and WWI monument continue to function as physical connections to the legal identity, political life, and public memory of Putnam County.

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Putnam County Courthouse Putnam County, WV
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Bibliography

Courthouse Order Book, Book 4, pp. 221, 222, 232, 600. Putnam County Courthouse, Winfield, West Virginia.

Courthouse Order Book, Book 9, pp. 37, 228. Putnam County Courthouse, Winfield, West Virginia.

Courthouse Order Book, Book 10, pp. 3, 111, 130, 140. Putnam County Courthouse, Winfield, West Virginia.

Interview with Jim Hines by Alan Rowe and Katherine Jourdan, Winfield, West Virginia, November 5, 1999.

“The Putnam County Court House Story, Installment I.” *The Putnam Democrat*, July 25, 1958, p. 10

“The Putnam County Court House Story, Installment II.” *The Putnam Democrat*, August 1, 1958, p. 10

“Putnam Courthouse Relic Recalls River Disaster.” *The Charleston Daily Mail*, August 7, 1938, p. 2.

Smithsonian Institution Research Information System: Long View for National Museum of American Art’s Inventory of American Sculpture. [web page]; <http://www.siris.si.edu>. [Accessed 2 December 1999].

Wells, John E., and Robert E. Dalton. The Virginia Architects, 1835-1955: A Biographical Dictionary. Richmond, VA: New South Architectural Press, 1997.

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1

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the SW corner of the drive to the courthouse, and US 35 or Winfield Road, and thence running 287 feet along the south edge of US 35 in a westerly direction to a point; thence turning S and running along the west property line for 269 feet to a point; thence turning NE and running 287 feet to a point along the drive; thence turning along the west edge of the drive and running for 287 feet to the corner, and the place of beginning.

Boundary Justification

This boundary reflects the property historically associated with the Putnam County Courthouse.

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Putnam County Courthouse Putnam County, WV
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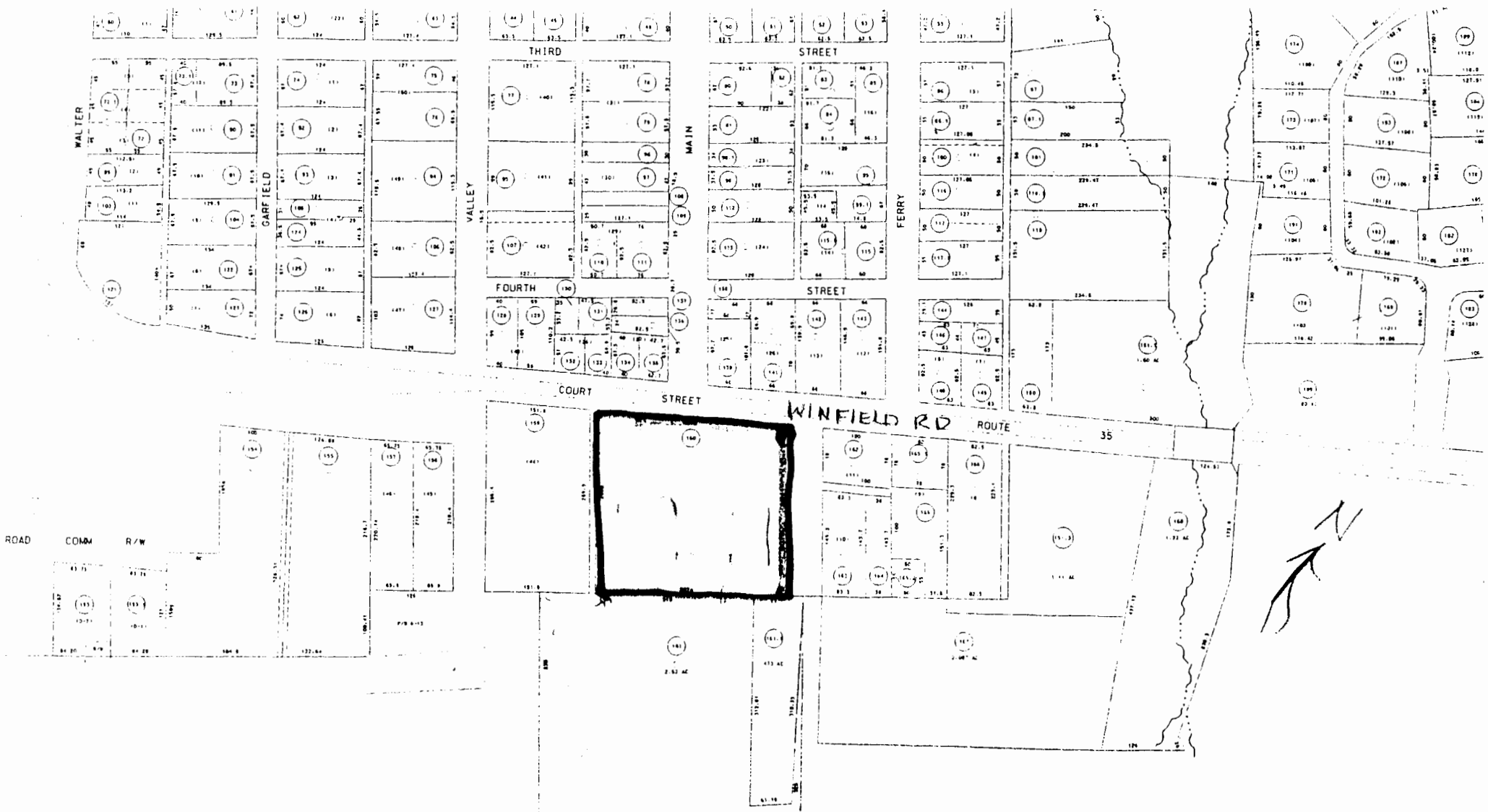
Name of Property: Putnam County Courthouse
Address: 3389 Winfield Road
Town: St. Albans
County: Putnam

Photographer: Katherine Jourdan

Date: November 5, 1999

Negatives: WV SHPO, Charleston, WV

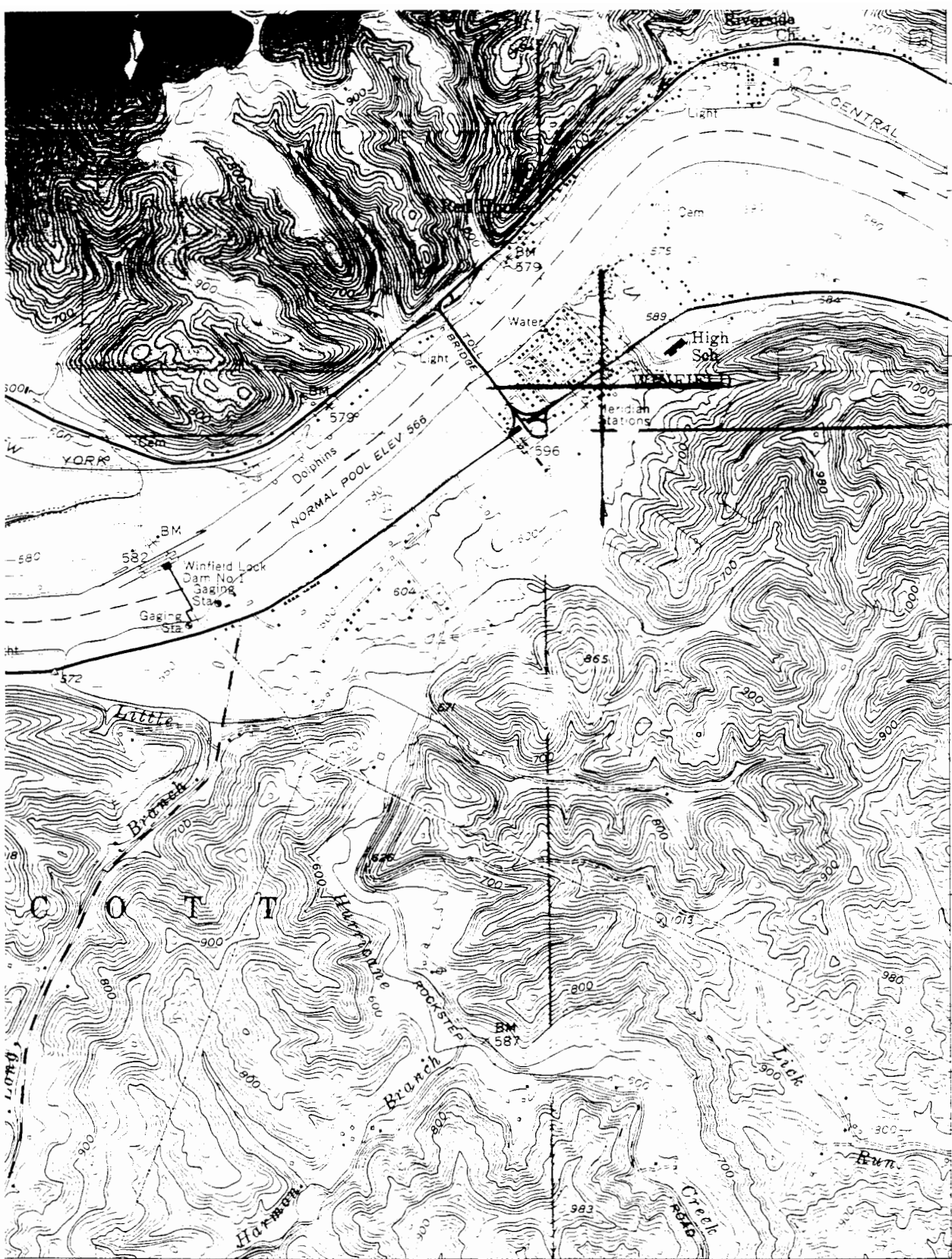
- Photo 1 of 9 Front Facade, NW Elevation
Camera facing E
- Photo 2 of 9 Front Facade, NW Elevation
Camera facing SE
- Photo 3 of 9 Front Facade NW Elevation showing annex
Camera facing E
- Photo 4 of 9 World War One monument, NW side
Camera facing SE
- Photo 5 of 9 Sidewalk at edge of Courthouse lawn
Camera facing E
- Photo 6 of 9 Courthouse lawn showing front steps and Front Facade
Camera facing E
- Photo 7 of 9 Side Facade, SW Elevation
Camera facing N
- Photo 8 of 9 Rear Facade, SE Elevation showing annex
Camera facing W
- Photo 9 of 9 Rear Facade, SE elevation
Camera facing N



Putnam County Courthouse
 Winfield Road/US 35
 Winfield, WV
 TAX MAP

LEGEND		RESTRICTION	REVISIONS	KEY MAP	DISTRICT WI						
LINE AVEMENT OR	ORIGINAL LOT LINE DEED LOT NUMBER (15)	ALL TAX MAPS CREATED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF REAPPRAISAL LEGISLATION ARE THE PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA AND THE REPRODUCTION, COPYING, DISTRIBUTION OR SALE OF SUCH TAX MAPS OR ANY COPIES THEREOF WITHOUT THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE STATE TAX COMMISSIONER IS PROHIBITED BY LAW.		<table border="1"> <tr> <td>174</td> <td>1</td> <td>05-174</td> </tr> <tr> <td>174</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		174	1	05-174	174		
174	1		05-174								
174											
ON LINE	PARCEL OR INDEX NO. (99)										
LINE	IMPROVEMENT(S) ○										
NE	RAILROAD										
E	SCALED DIMENSION (S) DEED DIMENSION (D) CALCULATED AREA (C)										
			1. CONVERTED TO CAD FILE 4/10/97		SHEET						
					DATE, AERIAL PHOTO NO.:						

PUTNAM
 COUNTY
 COURT HOUSE
 17 422245
 4265200
 WINFIELD
 81.52



32°30"

4262000m.N.

38°30'

81°52'30"

INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WASHINGTON D.C. 20508-NS
 MR 1341 423000m.E.

1 MILE

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

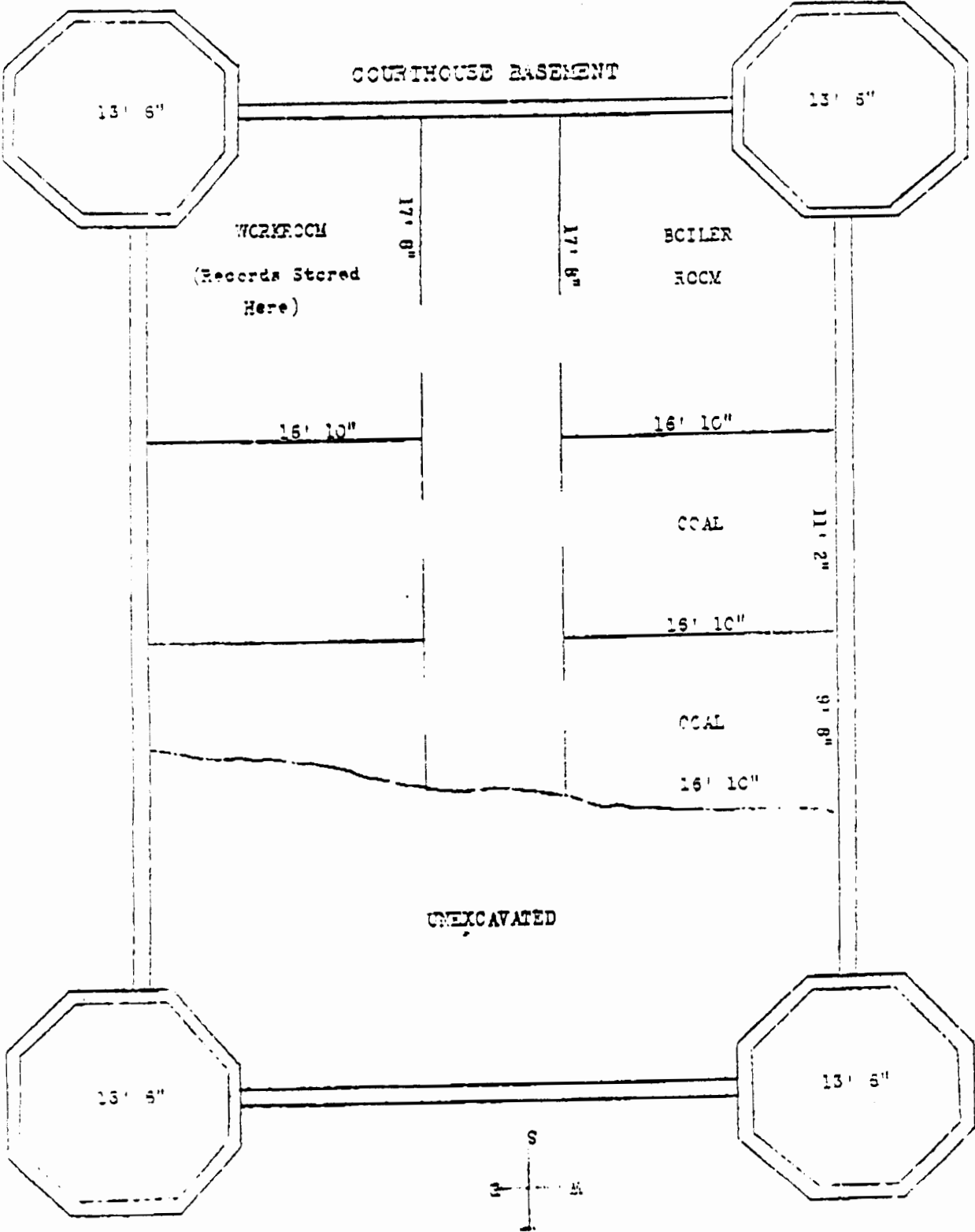
- Heavy-duty
- Medium-duty
- Light-duty
- Unimproved dirt
- U.S. Route
- State Route

(SAINT ALBANS)

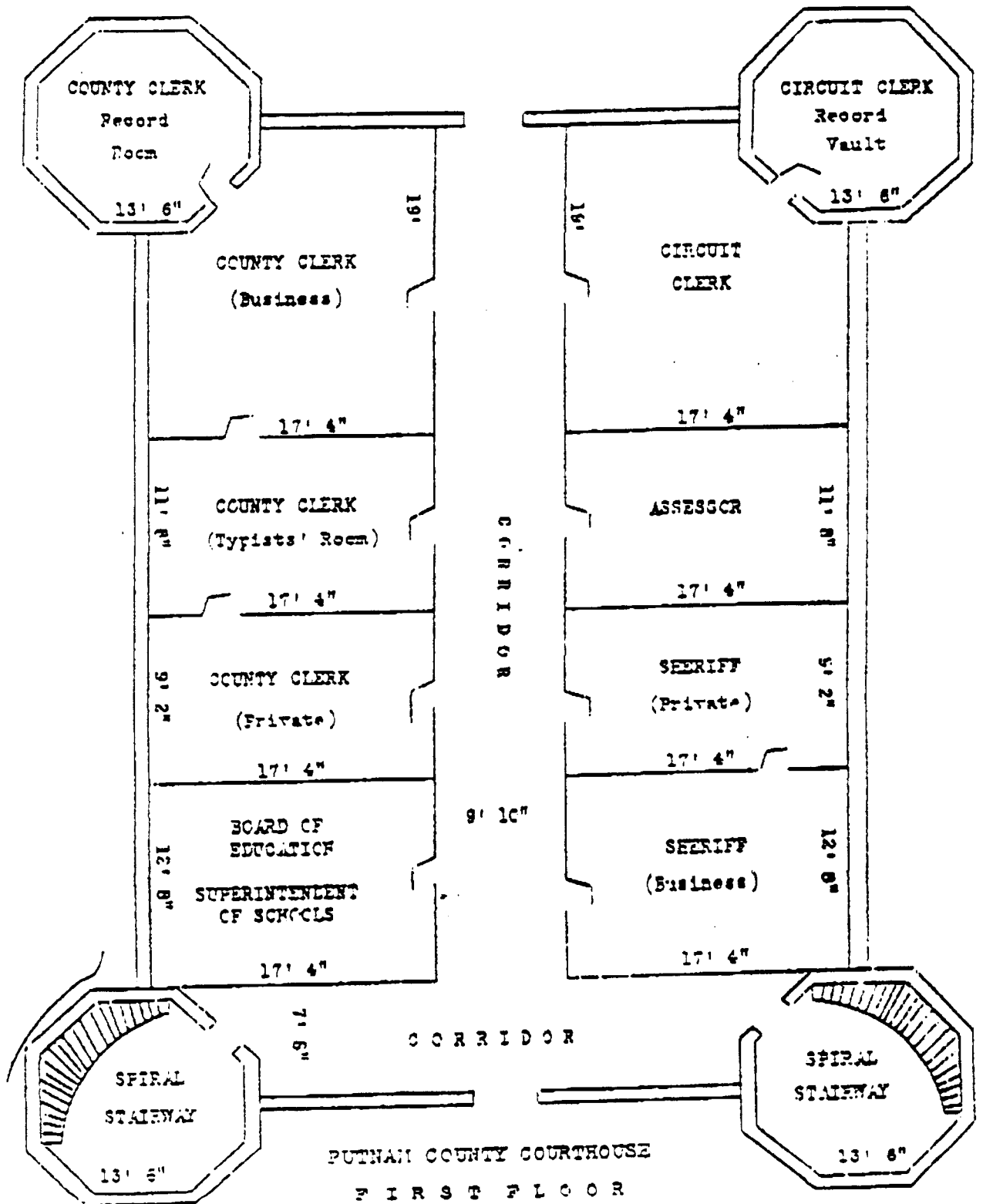


WINFIELD, W. VA.
 SW/4 WINFIELD 15' QUADRANGLE
 N 3830—W 8152.5/7.5

PUTNAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE
Winfield Road/US 35
Winfield, WV
Floorplan



PUTNAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE
 Winfield Road/US 35
 Winfield, WV
 Floorplan



PUTNAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE
 FIRST FLOOR

PUTNAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE
Winfield Road/US 35
Winfield, WV
Floorplan

