

CAR-85
Caroline County Courthouse
Denton
Public

1895 and later

This was the site of Caroline County Government since 1797. The original structure was built in the Federal style with central block having symmetrical hyphens and wings. There is a tradition in Caroline that William Buckland, architect of Annapolis designed the first courthouse since he died in Caroline while discussing a design for a building in 1774. This seems untenable, unless he left a general scheme with the commissioners, and the scheme was built with stylistic detail of the Federal Period, twenty-three years later.

That building was removed when a portion of the present courthouse was built in 1895. The back of that building now exists behind the "Colonial" facade. The second courthouse was built in the Romanesque style and has many details in common with the Worcester County Courthouse at Snow Hill.

The third courthouse covered the facade of the Romanesque structure and increased the size considerably. It lacks the architectural sophistication which the two former buildings possessed.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CAR-85
0600853601

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Caroline County Courthouse
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Market Street, between First and Second Streets
CITY, TOWN
Denton
STATE
Maryland
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
First
VICINITY OF
COUNTY
Caroline

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Commissioners of Caroline County
STREET & NUMBER
Courthouse
CITY, TOWN
Denton
Telephone #:
STATE, zip code
Maryland 21629
VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Caroline County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
Market Street
CITY, TOWN
Denton
Liber #:
Folio #:
STATE
Maryland 21629

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN
STATE
 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Caroline County Courthouse is on the site of the first courthouse built in the county in 1797. The present structure from Market Street appears to be a 1966 Georgian style structure with three bay central pavillion with Doric pedimented portico. Besides the central part, are four bays on each side; the roof of the two storys terminates in a hip. It is a very plain typical Government building of recent years with little relation to the proportions of antique architecture.

From the center of the roof, however, rises a foreign element, a bellroofed tower. Each of its facades is divided into two panels by pilasters with dentil frieze above. In each panel is a louvered opening with semicircular head. A clock is located in each facet of the bell shaped roof. A copper pinnacle rises from the apex of the roof. This element is what remains visible from Market Street. Behind the building is the remainder of the 1895 structure. It is three bays wide and four bays deep and has very tall proportions with this same type of details as on the tower. There is a granite basement and smooth brick above laid in all header bond. In each panel of the north section is a window oneach story. The panel is divided into first and second storys by a band of molded brick. The two windows closest the new addition are within a single panel. Each window has segmental arches on the first story and semicircular arches on the second story, both having rough granite imposts and sills, and protruding brick arches. Two chimneys with gablet between rise above the center north entrance, one is also located adjcaent the new wing on the east side. In each gable of the north section is a pediment of fish scale shingle.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Primarily the Caroline County Courthouse is important as the center of government since 1797. The structure which was built was a fine example of Federal architecture (or late Georgian) with a central block having symetrically placed hyphens and wings. There seems a possibility that the building was constructed after a design by William Buckland who died in Caroline County on his way to discuss the design with the county officials in 1774.

Architecturally, the second courthouse, built in 1895 was a very fine example of Romanesque design as made popular by architects such a H.H. Richardson. The building has many details similar to the Worcester County Courthouse, Snow Hill. A more appropriate enlargement of the building could have been accomplished by a close examination of the scale and lines of the original as was the case at Snow Hill.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

June, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



Caroline Co. Cthrs

CAR-85

J. Tyler Campbell

FREE-LANCE PHOTOGRAPHY
CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND

11/12

S. M. Bourne

0/77



CAR-85

Ct. Sq. Denton



Caroline Co. Courthouse

CAR-85

J. Tyler Campbell

FREE-LANCE PHOTOGRAPHY
CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND



N.

June 1927

M. Bowne



G. Ho.

Renton