

Henderson County Court House  
Henderson, Kentucky

HABS No. 20-18

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District No. 20

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
G. H. Grimes, District Officer  
304 Martin Brown Building  
Louisville, Kentucky

Name of structure: Henderson County Court House

Location: Henderson, Kentucky

Owner or  
custodian: Henderson County Judge

Address: Henderson, Kentucky

Date built: 1843  
(approx)

Architect  
or builder: Littleberry Weaver

Present  
condition: Fair

Number of  
stories: Two stories, and basement, (boiler  
room and public toilet only)

Material used  
in construction: Foundation: Masonry (stuccoed)  
Exterior walls: Brick (stuccoed)  
Interior partitions: Brick and frame,  
plastered.  
Floors: Concrete and wood, covered with  
linoleum.  
Roof: Frame construction, covered with  
standing seam tin.

Description: architectural  
and historical: Its bar was the professional battleground  
of brilliant men - Towles, Dixon, Powell,  
Cook, McHenry, the Barbours, and a host  
of others.

Improvements were made in 1858 by J. J. Kriss, architect, and T. G. Livers, contractor, for \$1,000. The interior of the building was completely overhauled, and made both comfortable and convenient.

During the second year of the Civil War this building was taken by the soldiers and occupied as a military headquarters, a prison house, hospital, cook-house and a means of

defense against the attacks of the enemy. At the close of the war the interior of the building presented a mutilated appearance. Pews and benches, flooring and the other necessary appendages had been sacrificed to the flames or whittled into ingenious trinkets. Its ruthless inmates had laid destroying hands upon evidences of value, torn from its walls the beauties of architecture, and knifed into shapless confusion the bench from which justice had been delivered.

Judge Hutchen, called a meeting in the fall of 1865 to devise ways and means for repairing and re-organizing the Court House, which had been rendered worthless from causes growing out of the late war.

The sum of \$5,000 was ordered appropriated to the remodeling and repairing of the Court House. A committee was appointed to borrow the said sum on the credit of the county.

At the May term, 1865, plans and specifications of the architects, Mursinna and Boyd, were received and adopted. The internal arrangements of the building was completely revolutionized by the architects. In this change, a large vault was built for the purpose of preserving the records of the county. The work was finished in 1866.

In 1874, a two-story wing was added, the lower floor set apart for the office of the Circuit Court Clerk, and office records. Another vault was added at the same time.

In 1881 another addition of a wing was completed to provide space for the County Clerk's office and the Grand Jury room.

Among those who practiced in this old Court House, and later were governors of Kentucky: Governor Lazarus W. Powell, Governor John Young Brown, Governor Augustus Owsley Stanley, and Lieutenant-Governor Archibald Dixon.

*G. M. Grimes*

*Revised 1936 by H.C.F.*