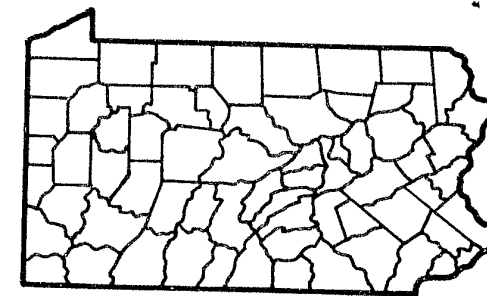


Court Facilities Study of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Submitted to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania / Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts



**DESCRIPTION
GUIDELINES
FINDINGS**



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Department of Architecture of The Pennsylvania State University

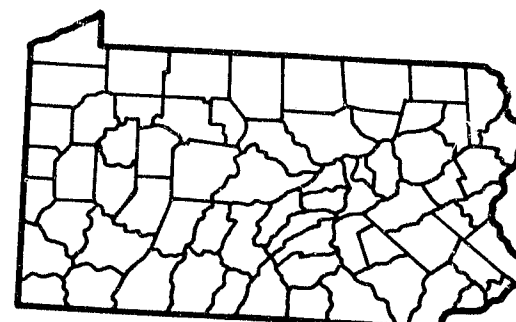
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table of contents

PART	PAGE
Letter of Chief Justice Michael J. Eagen	1
Letter of Honorable Alexander F. Barbieri	1
Acknowledgements, Introduction	2
Credits	3-5
I HISTORICAL, SYMBOLIC AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COURTHOUSE	
Symmetries of time and style : The historic significance of the courthouse in Pennsylvania	7-13
A symbolism of the center : The cultural significance of the courthouse, its grounds, and its place in the townscapes of Pennsylvania	13-21
II JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF PENNSYLVANIA	
description	22
map of Judicial Districts	22
county classification by population	23
III COURTHOUSE STUDY OBJECTIVES	
description	24
IV METHODOLOGY FOR STUDY	
description	25
establish goals	25
collect, organize and analyze facts	25-27
uncover and test programmatic concepts	27,28
determine needs, state the problem	28
general assumptions and conditions	28,29
definitions	29
V PLANNING GUIDELINE CRITERIA	
description	30
reference sources	30
public convenience	30,31
historical significance, architectural character	31
functional planning	31,32
physical condition	32,33
security, vulnerability	33,34
records management, information systems	34
expansion, flexibility	34
square foot space allocation	35
environmental comfort	36-42
summary	43

PART	PAGE
VI COURTHOUSE STUDY FINDINGS	
description	45,46
general observations	46,47
most common problems encountered	47
merits and faults	48-51,54,55
composite evaluation	52,54,55
VII SELECTED ENERGY AUDIT	
description	57
selected courthouse facility profiles	58,59
selected energy audit findings	60,61
VIII VALUE OF COURTHOUSE STUDY	
retrospective	62
IX READING THE COUNTY MONOGRAPH FORMAT	
description	63
A. General Information	63
B. Contextual Description	64
C. Architectural Description	64
D. Functional Description, Analysis and Rating	65
E. Floor Plans and Functional Allocations	66
F. Physical Conditions	67
G. Existing Allocations	67
H. Problems and Recommendations	68



SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

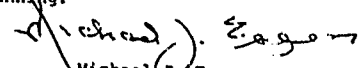
MICHAEL J. EAGEN
CHIEF JUSTICE

15 September 1980

FOREWORD

Men submit to the same law and expect equal consideration under the law. This concept of justice, of fair play, finds its most tangible expression in the symbol of the courthouse. My experience over the years has taught me that Pennsylvanians, in particular, proudly view their courthouses as the vinculum of community life and the protectorate of the individual freedom.

To ensure that our judicial system remains at once modern, vital, and efficient, we must commit our efforts and resources, not only to refining the substantive and procedural aspects of the law, but to maintaining and improving the facilities for the administration of justice. This is a difficult task requiring a blend of knowledge, empirical data, and vision. To that end, this report represents an important beginning.


Michael J. Eagen
Chief Justice of Pennsylvania

SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA



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ALEXANDER F. BARBIERI
JUDGE
COURT ADMINISTRATOR OF PENNSYLVANIA

15 October 1980

We are pleased to present you with the Final Report of the "Court Facilities Study." Funding for this research was provided by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

The Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts has long held the view that the 67 county courthouses in Pennsylvania, to be conducive to an efficient administration of justice, must be periodically assessed in light of evolving judicial needs. If provided with the attention they merit, these courthouses will continue to render a vital service to the judicial process and to the citizens of Pennsylvania.

At this time, we would like to acknowledge the many individuals to whom we are indebted for this report: to the President Judges of Common Pleas Courts for their interest and active participation in the project; to the District Court Administrators, Prothonotaries, Clerks and numerous court officers for their invaluable cooperation; and to Professor Raniaro Corbelletti and his staff of the Department of Architecture, Pennsylvania State University, for their precise, clear and scholarly research, and for the preparation of this report.


Alexander F. Barbieri
Court Administrator of Pennsylvania

acknowledgements/introduction

The Pennsylvania courthouse facility study was commissioned by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts under a Federal Grant awarded through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, and was planned and conducted by faculty, students and staff of the Department of Architecture at The Pennsylvania State University.

Valuable counsel was given by many practicing architects, experts in the field, and by the judges and officials representing the judiciary of our Commonwealth, without whose essential guidance this project would not have been possible.

A special note of gratitude goes to three individuals: Don Leon, for his contribution to the research, investigation, organization and management of tasks, and Alan Popovich and Ann Alters whose efforts in the production of the final study went beyond all expectations and were vital to the realization of the project.

The evaluation study of buildings is designed as a response to ever-increasing demands that buildings should meet the needs of those who occupy them, and satisfy the requirements of operations for which they are intended. This study of 67 courthouses in Pennsylvania is no exception to such a design. In developing information suitable to the identification and formulation of design recommendations, we have attempted to respect three important attributes of a research discipline:

- a common set of research methods for developing the needed information,
- a defined subject area describing the problems under study,
- theoretical guidelines applicable to the subject matter.

This study does not deal with the judicial system itself but limits its scope to the concerns for the courthouse as a structure and as architecture. It concentrates itself on issues of the building's origins, its symbolic significance and service through history, its architectural expression and appearance, its functional role, use and activities, on how well it accommodates the same and on how it must change to continue its important contributions to the life of Pennsylvania.

Our task was pursued by examining interrelations of evaluative descriptions and physical aspects of the facilities, by identifying physical attributes and by establishing a somewhat empirical classification of the courthouse building "type." Classification of activities and physical building aspects represented, however, only some of the basic dimensions on which the evaluation was structured; the concept of place and its relation to function remained central in this study, and with it the search for "meaning," or all those things which relate courthouses, beyond their "face value" or physical properties, to those things in life which a community attaches significance and value: its ideas, purposes, conceptions and beliefs.

R. Corbelli
April 1981

credits

The Pennsylvania State University Court Facilities Study was a team effort and the final report was the product of many contributors. Those who had responsibilities or deserve special mention are as follows:

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Raniero Corbelletti directed the entire project from its initial inception, for which he was the author, and served as the general editor of the study.

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Don Leon was involved in the general organization and management of the study, for which he was the principal investigator, and served as the general author for much of the study description, guidelines, findings and recommendations.

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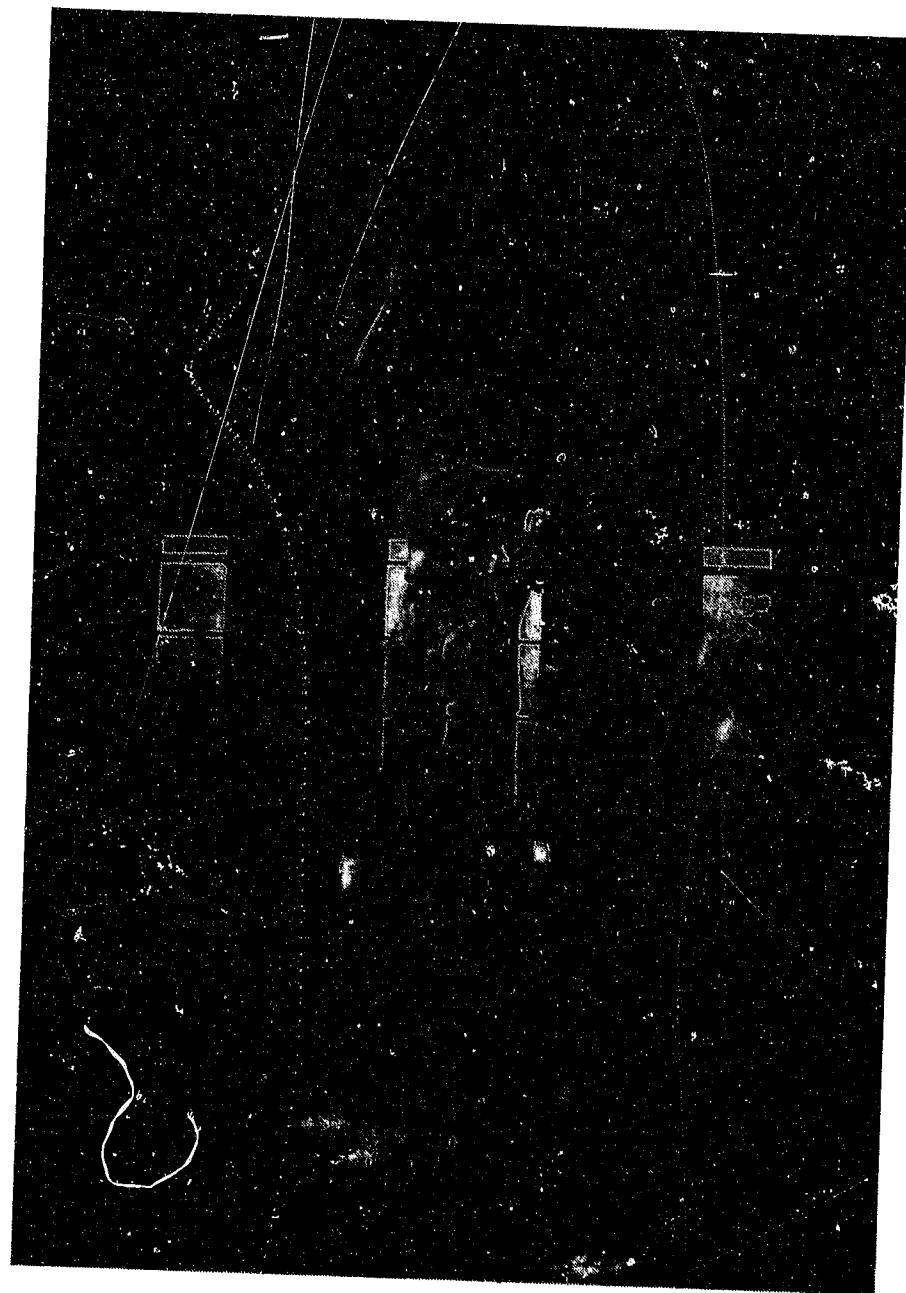
Special credit must be given to the following groups of individuals:

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I: HISTORICAL, SYMBOLIC AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COURTHOUSE

Symmetries of time and style:
The historic significance of the courthouse in Pennsylvania

D.E. Kunze

The county courthouses of Pennsylvania constitute a vast museum of the State's architectural heritage. Yet, because the courthouse is such a uniquely American phenomenon, this heritage is doubly valuable. It represents over a century of changing attitudes, values, and predispositions held by Americans towards public space, community, and justice itself.

One way of assessing this wealth is from the perspective of architectural style. Categorically, extant courthouses provide examples of nine distinct style groups: Federal (the earliest), Greek and Roman Revival ("Classic Revival"), Italianate, Second Empire, Victorian Gothic, Neo-Classical, Art-Deco, and Modern. Each style, to some extent, is the result of the diffusion of a fashion: the desire to be as architecturally well dressed as--especially--one's neighboring counties. But even the faddish acceptance of a style presupposes the importation of certain underlying attitudes. "What the courthouse should look like?" is answered, thus, from the point of view of what justice means to a community as well as from the perspective of what is architecturally au courant.

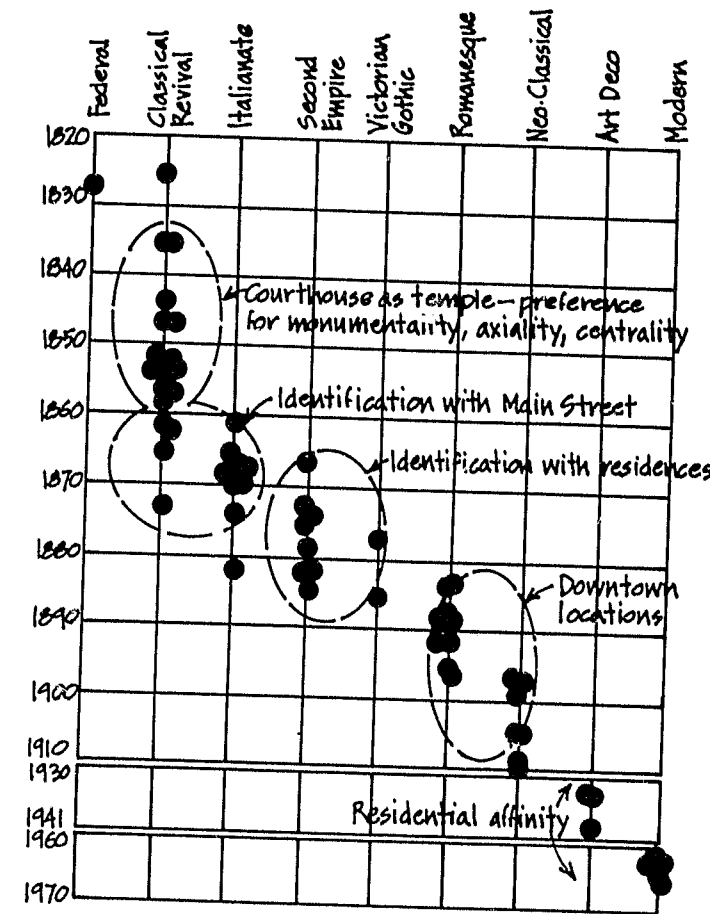
To follow the trail of a fad is revealing in itself. One uncovers patterns of influence, locates innovative "early acceptors," identifies backwaters, and in general describes a network by which not only fads but customs, values, and techniques are spread. In this pursuit, explaining choice is not just a matter of time and place. Leaders must be distinguished from followers, adventurers from conservatives, Germans from Anglos, and so on. While these kinds of questions are exceedingly worthwhile, they are beyond the scope of this study. What remains is the question: "How has style affected value, and value style?" In short, can the pattern of changing style tell us anything about the evolution of community attitudes towards the court or towards justice in general?

Fig. 1 describes the distribution of county courthouses with respect to their date of construction and their architectural style.¹ In general, the courthouses exemplify two different periods. The first is a period of general stability between the 1820's and 1860's; the majority of courthouses were of Classic Revival designs. However, between 1860 and the present, a series of overlapping stylistic periods reveals a general steady movement away from this stability to an even succession of styles--from Italianate through Second Empire, Victorian Gothic, Romanesque, and Neo-classical to the modern Art-Deco and "International" styles.

These two periods, one of stability and one of evenly stepped change, reflect, perhaps, the enormous economic and demographic changes which occurred after the defeat of the South and the opening of the West to migration and settlement. Likewise, of course, the same postwar period witnessed a vast consolidation and diffusion of an industrial technology fueled by coal and built with iron and steel, materials of special importance to the economic, geographic, and historic development of Pennsylvania.

The first, antebellum period was, however, rich enough in its variations to provide later styles with a variety of traditions to follow. This variation amid

FIG. 1: DISTRIBUTION OF PENNSYLVANIA COURTHOUSES ACCORDING TO DATE OF CONSTRUCTION AND ARCHITECTURAL STYLE.



(Period & style are regularly associated with site preferences.)

FIG. 1

When individual existing courthouses are plotted with respect to their construction date and architectural style, several patterns emerge.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

¹ Data of (for) Figure 1 from Groenendaal.

stylish stability was largely that of the courthouse's relation to its context: the development of the site, the relation to Main Street, the use of space terrain, and strategic placement to the advantage of the courthouse's image. Later styles were to find their place already defined by precedents achieved in the Classic Revival designs of an earlier period; but, in many cases, these styles perfected what had only been developed in outline. This study will attempt to sketch the relation between style and context which forms the fundament of the courthouse's cultural significance as a symbol of justice.

a general description of the styles and their occurrence in Pennsylvania

Federal. Pennsylvania's only Federal courthouse still standing is located in Bedford County. This style owes its origin to the Italian travels of the English brothers Adam whose researchers revealed a new, hitherto unsuspected grace and richness in domestic Roman architecture. Imported to the United States as the Federal Style (so named because it flourished in the early formative years of the new nation), its chief characteristics were the use of oval or circular interior rooms, the simplification and limitation of ornamentation, and the decorative use of "rosettes, urns, swags, and oval patera." Bedford's porch and portico are formalized by two Doric columns whose pediment is graced by a semicircular, traceried window.

Classic Revival. Poppeliers *et al.* write:

"The most easily identified features of a Greek-inspired (building) are columns and pilasters, though not every Greek Revival structure has them. Also hallmarks of the style are bold, simple moldings on both the exterior and interior, pedimented gables, heavy cornices with unadorned friezes and horizontal transoms above entrances."²

While these attributed are abundantly evidences in Pennsylvania's Greek Revival courthouses (here termed Classic Revival to enable the inclusion of Lancaster County's decidedly Roman Revival courthouse), the variation within the style is great. At one end of the spectrum stands the modest decorum of the courthouses in Perry, Mifflin, and Franklin Counties, conditioned perhaps by their prime location on Main Street. At the other end, in both a stylistic and a vertical sense, are the broad-porticoed, white templed which prefer the monumental hill-sites of Lawrence and Armstrong Counties or the institutional spaciousness of Erie County's site. The temple analogy stimulated, even in less temple-like buildings, a taste for even the limited monumentality afforded by sloping sites, stairs, or enlarged pediments (Centre, Juniata, Northampton, and Fulton counties). Indeed, the use of terrain for vertical, monumental emphasis was not forgotten as other styles replaced the Greek Revivals.

Italianate. The accentuated overhangs, brackets, and round-headed, hood-molded windows of the Italianate style were easily adapted to the county courthouse. Its flexibility allowed for unconventional designs such as that of Clearfield's Courthouse, while also being perfectly suited for the light formality of courthouses such as those in Jefferson, Wyoming, and Venango counties. It is important to remember that the Italianate, like the Gothic, was imported via the rural countryside--a domestic cottage or villa form elevated to the scale and status of the public building. Although this style strutted most of its hour on the stage of Main Street, it was the first stylistic tie between the courthouse--which was later to show site affinities for residential neighborhoods--and the private home.³

FIG. 1 (CON'T)

The first is the regular and almost linear progression which begins just after the Civil War and includes a relatively long period of uniform expression in the Classic Revival styles. During this postwar progression, each of the two decades between 1870 and 1890 witnesses a broad stylistic spread over four different styles. Uniformity is again established during the late 1800s when Romanesque and Neo-Classical designs dominate.

The progression of courthouse styles is accompanied by a progression of site preferences. The first group (1840-1860) is predominantly fond of the extensive symbolism offered by streets, terrain, and elaborated intersections; after the Civil War, this preference is narrowed, as the identification with Main Street is emphasized. The third group of courthouses represents a new connection between the courthouse and neighborhoods containing the town's best residences; but by the 1890s, this trend is replaced by a Neo-Classical revival of the traditional Main Street location. In the twentieth century, location is hardly ever used in any symbolic way except where new construction occurs on old sites.

²John Poppeliers, S. Allen Chambers, and Nancy B. Schwartz, *What Style is It?* (Washington, D.C.: National Trust for Historic Preservation, no date), p. 14.

³*IBID*, p. 16.

Second Empire. Borrowed from the France of Napoleon III who undertook to rebuild Paris into a gallery of monuments and broad boulevards, this style is most famous for its use of the mansard roof. Many additional elements accompany this nearly ubiquitous feature, however, and it is often difficult to distinguish this style clearly from Italianate or other picturesque styles. Pennsylvania's Second Empire courthouses show a curious fondness for residential environs. In a few cases (Crawford and Wayne counties) an entire New England style green is hollowed out of a neighborhood and several blocks away from the main commercial district.

Victorian Gothic. Another of the unique styles first associated with rural architecture of country estates, Victorian Gothic was fueled by a growing popular enchantment with literary Romanticism. Yet as demonstrated by Pennsylvania's two Gothic courthouses in Blair and Butler counties, the closest analogy suggested by this style is to that of a church. The starkly contrasting sites of these two examples suggest, however, that there is little in this style that restricts its application: the style seems to be an effect, rather than a cause, of sentiment.

Romanesque. The association of this heavy, masonry style with the architect Henry Richardson is so strong as to justify application of the term, Richardson Romanesque, to buildings by other architects. Although architects such as James Renwick had been experimenting with round arches, corbels, and chevrons archaeologically identified with pre-Gothic European architecture, it was not until Richardson gave this style its unique stamp--a horizontal emphasis, a rough exterior surface, and artful balance or massing of building parts both with each other and with adjacent open space--that the style achieved its widespread popularity in the 1870s and 1880s for use in churches, universities and other public institutions. Samples of this style in Lackawanna, Clarion, Allegheny, Cameron, Fayette, Luzerne, Monroe, Schuylkill, Carbon, and Sullivan counties indicate an accompanying preference for the monumental, both in site and building size.

Neo-Classical. The influence of the Ecole des Beaux-Arts where legions of American architects studied during the middle and late eighteenth century cannot be overestimated. Just as the French had undertaken to legislate their language through the grammaire of Port Royal, the Ecole was heir to the Academie's programmatic regulation of the visual arts. Studies emphasized Greek and Roman architecture and the revival of Vitruvian principles of harmony, balance, and form; the effect on American architecture was striking. Like the visual wedding cakes of the Columbian exposition, Neo-Classical public buildings were monumental, heavily ornamented, and high; yet they evidenced an elegance and lightness through their careful balance of masses, levels, and openings. They are among the buildings most easily identified as courthouses, perhaps because of their extreme impracticality for anything other than public use. Pennsylvania's examples are impressive and well-maintained to this day (Bradford, York, Washington, Somerset, Montgomery, Westmoreland, and Mercer counties).

Art-Deco and Modern (International Style). Though only about a half-century old, Pennsylvania's Art-Deco courthouses, like many other Art-Deco buildings in the country, have achieved historical notoriety. Their streamlined rectilinear forms and detailing are now regarded as perhaps the last flourish of a decorative tradition associated with architecture before this international style banished all form not related to function. If Pennsylvania's courthouses are any indication, the loss of any unity of style whatsoever. Apart from the Art-Deco examples in Beaver, Berks, and Dauphin counties, the modern courthouses in the state (Lebanon, Lehigh, Bucks, Lycoming, Indiana, and the many additions to older original structures such as in Washington and Northampton counties) do not reflect the unities of any one style,

except those dictated by building materials and construction techniques. The analogy to the office building is increasingly strong, however, as county governments have given more attention to managerial efficiency. This analogy is perhaps the key to the growing anonymity of this building type--the inability to distinguish the county courthouse from its environs. While the use of symbolism in revival styles was subtle but generally accepted, symbolism in the modern idiom is frequently heavy-handed, as in the contrast of the circular court building and rectilinear administration building in Bucks County.

style and its correspondence with site and situation

By referring again to Fig. 1 which delineates courthouses with respect to period and style, it is possible to identify five major groups, reasonably contemporaneous and homogeneous in style, and also similar in their use of the landscape to augment their architectural image. The general strategies and meanings behind the large-scale co-option of the landscape are discussed in "A Symbolism of the Center: The Cultural Significance of the Courthouse, Its Grounds, and Its Place in the Townscapes of Pennsylvania." In brief, this symbolism of the center is an extensive, systematic means of using terrain, axiality of streets, and open space to emphasize the courthouse's function as a center and pivot--a point of control about which the social, economic, and cultural life of the county is seen to revolve. This symbolism, historically tending to compact itself into smaller and more spatially restricted forms, closely corresponds to the development of architectural styles and periods.

The first group of courthouses is entirely identifiable with the Greek Revival period, beginning in the 1830s and lasting up until the beginning of the Civil War. Typical of this style, courthouses freely abandoned their traditional Main Street locations for the monumental advantages offered by a nearby hill. Yet, this seeming decentralization was not an abandonment of the theme of centrality. It merely established the precedent whereby a visual prominence could be substituted for a literal prominence: an exploitation of the way the building is experienced, as opposed to the centrality it is accorded in the formal plan of the town. A curious feature of this group is that even courthouses accorded a prominent piece of Main Street do not, according to our stereotypical image of the courthouse and square (the Philadelphia/Lancaster Plan), enjoy the axial symmetries of radiating streets, traffic circles, and the other usual paraphernalia of centrality. Yet, by looking closely at the spatial organization of the entire town, a subtle but pervasive system may be perceived whereby the articulated differences between floodplains, Main Street, and residential highlands are strikingly similar. Although many practical ends are realized as well, the ultimate implications of such careful organization can only be regarded as purposefully symbolic.

The curious feature of the next group of courthouses associated with the Civil War and immediate postwar period is the enthusiastic return to Main Street locations, although the predominately Italianate flavor of this period suggests affinities to both commercial and residential environments. This Main Street enthusiasm is reflected dialectically in the next period, which is characterized by this retreat into residential neighborhoods. In some cases, retreat carries with it the entire courthouse park and accompanies introduction of the Second Empire and Victorian Gothic styles. The end of this period is roughly contemporaneous with the jubilant reclamation of the Main Street location promoted by the Romanesque and Neo-Classical. Such buildings were unmistakably monuments, and a monumental site was required. To this end, hilltop siting was also revived with enthusiasm, as in Schuylkill and Cameron counties.

The last group of courthouses reflect a mixed preference for Main Street and residential locations. Only Dauphin and Beaver County's courthouses occupy the traditional site. In Dauphin, it is a gate site adjacent to a major bridge into the city; in Beaver, it is the familiar site which terminates the business district of Main Street with a park opposite the courthouse building. Indiana's new courthouse sits on the town's main street, to be sure, but it is harder to identify, architecturally and locationally, than the original courthouse which occupies a prominent intersection down the street. Lebanon's courthouse is nestled in a residential district several blocks from the center of town; Berks County's courthouse is well-disguised as a modern office building. Courthouses in Bucks and Lycoming Counties occupy traditional, prestigious sites, but the loss of architectural cues of the courthouses function has invited a certain anonymity.

What is the meaning of this historical transition from courthouses and sites which symbolically involve whole landscapes to courthouses which cannot be readily identified as such? This movement could be appropriately described as one from extensive symbolism where the whole townscape speaks the language of the courthouse to intensive symbolism where symbolism of the center is abbreviated, compacted, and miniaturized into less extensive forms.

importance of the shift from extensive to intensive expression

In small towns where symbolism of the center was first articulated, its imagery could be found at every level of scale--from extensive land--and townscapes to intensive use of single buildings, monuments, and intersections (see, A Symbolism of the Center: The Cultural Significance of the Courthouse, Its Grounds, and Its Place in the Townscapes of Pennsylvania). While the importance of symbolism of the center has not diminished over the years, the physical expression of that symbolism has been affected radically by the erosive forces of traffic, new construction, and changing patterns of land use. These and other changes have worked at every level of scale, but their final effect at each level has been significantly different.

For fairly simple reasons, history has favored the small-scale over the large. The extensive symbolism of the landscape--where terrain itself speaks the language of domain, control, and memory--is fragile. At this scale, intelligibility is disrupted by even small alterations of pattern. The complicated symbolism of Main Street and its intersections fares better, but the street's exposure to pressure to improve traffic efficiency weakens its symbolic carrying capacity and endurance. Most resistant--but not invulnerable--are the single buildings and monuments where symbolism and utility are sometimes able to strike a long-term balance.

Historically, this shift of symbolic scale has resulted in four phases of development where architectural style, courthouse location, and symbolic extensiveness/intensiveness have taken on characteristic relationships (Fig. 2). The first phase, distinguished by its use of both extensive and intensive scales of symbolization, flourished just before the Civil War. Here, Italianate and Classic Revival courthouses maintained a traditional obeisance to Main Street; even where nearby prominent sites lured Greek Revival temple-style courthouses away from a Main Street location, their monumental image still visually belonged to Main Street and to the prevailing symmetries of the landscape.

The second phase (1850-1890) retained much of the extensiveness of the first but with an increasing exploitation of the monumental. At the end of this period,

FIG. 2: THE TRANSITION FROM EXTENSIVE TO INTENSIVE USE OF SYMBOLISM.

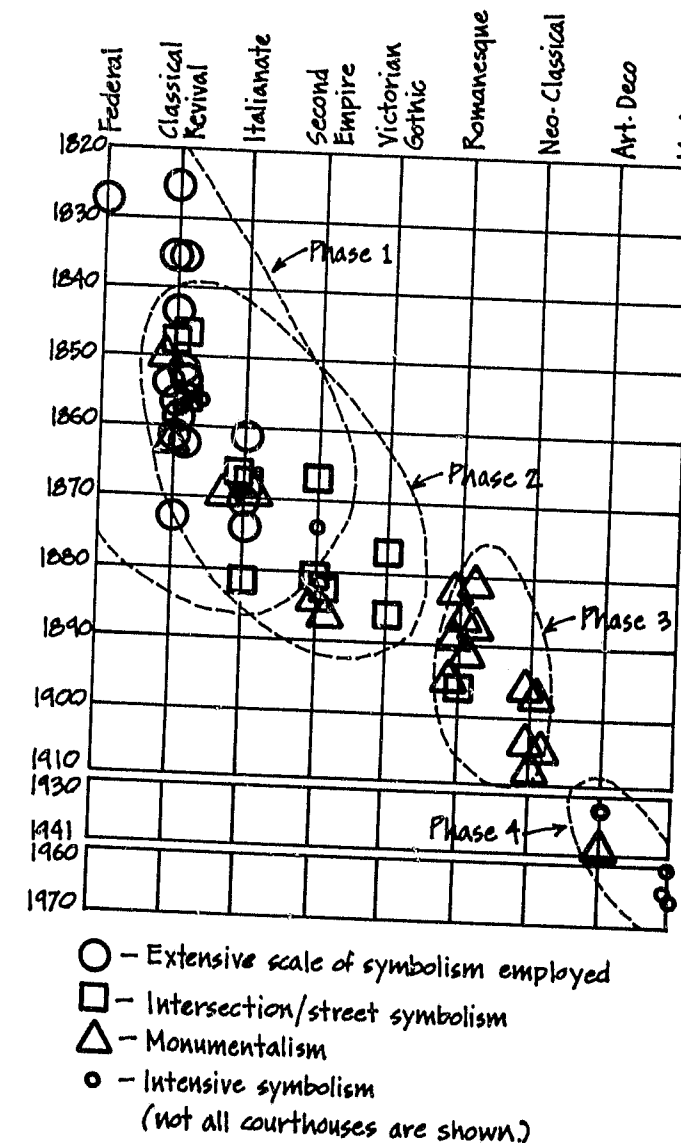


FIG. 2 CAPTION (ON NEXT PAGE)

Second Empire courthouses began to prefer residential locations. In some cases (e.g., Crawford, Wayne), the residential location was furnished with a New England-style green, transferring the sense of a town center to an off-Main Street location. In other cases (Warren), the courthouse and its grounds fit almost unnoticeably into a neighborhood of prominent, large homes.

The third phase of development (1880-1910) witnessed a further compaction of symbolic scale as courthouses themselves became more massive and elaborate. Symbolism here was less dependent on the reticulation of streets or shape of the land than it was on the sheer monumentality of the building itself. The later Classic Revival buildings of this period brought an opulence to the Main Street address they preferred, but it was an opulence which destroyed the subtleties of symmetry and terrain, former rewards of such a central location.

At first, the fourth phase of courthouse symbolism emphasized the building as a monument (Dauphin, Beaver, Bucks), but by this time, both the traditional ties with Main Street and the use of extensive symbolism had virtually disappeared. Vestiges of landscape--scale expression remained only where new courthouses were built on old sites (Beaver, Bucks). Where rebuilding was accompanied by relocation, new sites offered little in the way of monumentality; symbolism became a matter of internal architectural expression within buildings whose exterior style was frequently borrowed from other building types. Some courthouses preferred the look of institutional compound (Northampton, Lebanon), while others nestled physically and stylistically into the downtown business district (Berks, Indiana, Lycoming).

History's preferential treatment of medium has also resulted in a change in the message, for the components of the symbolism of the center contain a built-in reference to scale. For example, the landscape is in one sense a level of scale where terrain expresses equally the three component ideas of domain, control, and memory; but in another sense, landscape is terrain. When this extensive scale of expression is inhibited, our image of the terrain itself as domain is affected. On the other hand, the idea of memory requires only a prominent site or significant point for the monument forms it favors. Its preference for the intensive medium makes it less vulnerable to the forces of change which so easily damage the more extensive presentations of landscape symbolism. As pressures of change compress the medium of the symbolism of the center into smaller and smaller forms, this symbolism's center of gravity shifts to the side of memory.

While the courthouse's image is no longer dependent on our contemporary experience of place, it does depend on our memory of a former sense of place where entire landscapes were engaged in a symbolic image. This ideal order is difficult to replicate today, but the memory of its essential features, through surviving relics and associated ideas, is crucial to the courthouse image.

In order to bolster the sagging identity of the courthouse in the face of a contraction of the allowable scale of expression, the most frequent response has been monumentalism. This trend is exemplified not only in the increase in building scale which began at the turn of the century and continues today, but also in the conscious importation of symbols intended to effect a special message about the courthouse's functions and the nature of justice. Where the texture of the courthouse's environs is fine-grained and buildings are small-scale, monumentalism can have jarring effects. Messages built into design take on an ironic sense for want of supportive context, and the failure of the building to communicate stigmatizes the community's image of the court.

FIG. 2

Courthouses have been classified into four groups with regard to the use of symbolism: (1) extensive, involving terrain and street pattern; (2) contracted, employing only a major intersection or immediate locale; (3) visual, as a monument; and (4) concentrated, building exterior and interior with little effect on the immediate environs. Four periods can also be identified. The first two overlap to document shift away from extensive expression as facilitated by the early use of monumental settings. An almost uniform shift to the monumental characterizes the third group. And, the last five courthouses demonstrate a restriction of symbolic expression to the building itself. (Note: this plot has been modified to correct for the use of old sites by new buildings; courthouses deleted include Bucks, Beaver, and Lehigh.) A comparison of the data from this figure with the discussion of siting reveals a strong association between site preference and symbolic intensification. As the courthouse loosens its ties with Main Street, it emphasizes its monumental nature; even where the Main Street location is again sought in the 1880s and 90s, it does not reestablish an extensive pattern of symbolism but, rather, enhances the courthouse's image as a monument. The monument becomes the medium by which the courthouse intensifies or compacts its symbolic expression. In terms of the component ideas of the symbolism of the center, this represents a shift from the concept of domain to that of control and, finally, memory.

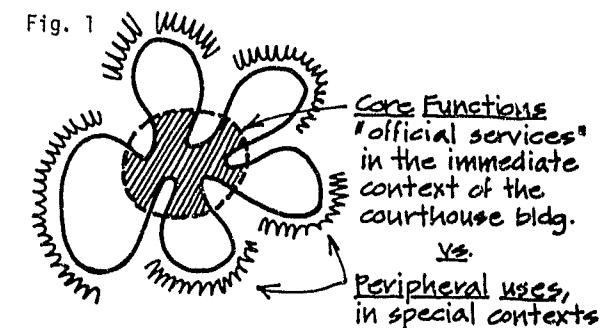
From the start, attempts to improve the courthouse image which have recognized dependence upon local environs have fared considerably better. By revitalizing their main streets, some county seats (Washington, Coudersport, Williamsport) have literally recovered lost ground for the courthouse image. Other counties (Delaware, Chester, Cumberland, Montgomery, York) have turned the need for expansion into an opportunity to improve the quality of adjacent urban open space. Yet, even here the importation of symbolism is too often self-defeating. Frequently, revitalized Main Streets and urban parks and malls merely duplicate the atmosphere of the shopping mall where, as Calvin Trillin observed, we walk as consumers, not as citizens. To regain the sense of public space once conveyed by the symbolic organization of the landscape is virtually impossible once the delicate balance between scale, technology, architecture, and landscape has been upset. We are left with the necessity to preserve what relics may remind us of this original unity between life and land which is the courthouse's sense of place.

A symbolism of the center:
The cultural significance of the, courthouse, its grounds,
and its place in the townscapes of Pennsylvania

D.E. Kunze

Whenever changes are proposed for any public facility, consideration of the impact of such changes on the community must extend beyond understanding the immediate effects of the facility's official, salient services. There are many ancillary, tangential, and informal kinds of use enveloping the core of official services; these peripheral uses in fact often explain what makes a particular physical facility work. The satisfaction a building offers is largely a product of the toleration, accommodation, and positive support it gives the myriad though barely visible complex of activities that surround and sustain obvious and officially acknowledged central functions (Fig. 1).

In the case of the county courthouse, conventional core uses are extended by a completely different kind of use. While the courthouse serves one population directly through actual physical contact housed within the courthouse building, it also serves a much larger population--not as a service but as a symbol. It may at first be difficult to think of a community as using a building simply by looking at it, holding beliefs about it, and investing it with certain meanings. But the primacy of the county courthouse in the townscape of the county seat along with the architectural significance of the courthouse building itself mandate a major study--for which there are scarcely any precedents--of the courthouse's function as a symbol, its place in the structure of the county seat townscape, and its location, site, and architecture as an idea in the community's mind.



From direct experience as well as from the reflective experiences of art and literature, we know that the courthouse is far more than a simple symbol of justice. In his short story "Requiem for a Nun," William Faulkner observed that the courthouse has always been "the center, the focus, the hub; sitting looming in the center of the county's circumference...protector of the weak, judicate and curb of the passions and lusts, repository and guardian of the aspirations and hopes." In the popular imagination, the courthouse is embellished with traditional heraldry: a square with streets radiating in four directions; a nearby monument commemorating local heroes; a symmetrical facade crowned with an elegant tower fit with clock and clarion bell. But whether or not a courthouse boasts all this, it articulates a clear language whereby the relation between land and law is expressed physically in the terms of core and periphery.

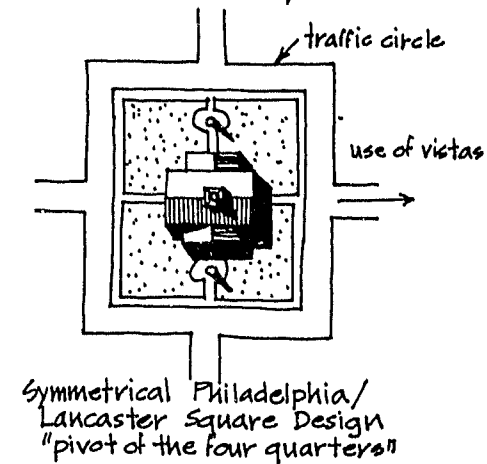
This language, a symbolism of the center, is an arrangement of objects and spaces--a gesture. The vocabulary of this mute speech is as old as Western thought itself. One may even find it, as Paul Wheatley has suggested in *The Pivot of the Four Quarters* (Chicago: Aldine, 1971), in the origins of Chinese urbanism. This language has never failed to find an idiom appropriate to an age. The American courthouse has most often spoken this language in terms of the courthouse square. Usually set in the historic center of town at the convergence of the county's major roads, the courthouse and square form a literal pivot for the life of the community. About its square stand the town's best stores, its most prestigious churches, its affluent banks. This living centrality is underscored by the very images the courthouse and square create--radial streets, symmetrical paving, plantings, steps and staircases, ornamentation, fountains, and monuments.

Pennsylvania has long been considered the American source for the broad diffusion of the classic courthouse square, particularly in the form of the Philadelphia and Lancaster square designs (Fig. 2). Ironically, today the state can claim but few vestiges of this originality; the best examples of a central courthouse and square are to be found in the Midwest and South. Nevertheless, Pennsylvania courthouses have managed to develop distinctive alternative means of expressing a symbolism of the center. Through these alternatives, traditional pivotal ideas seem to have gained in eloquence what they may have lost in literalness.

This study outlines the development of variations in courthouse settings. Each resulting type is distinctive, but as a whole the courthouses of Pennsylvania express the gradual transition from eighteenth-century styles of city planning to twentieth-century modifications of these styles in the face of rapidly changing urban contexts. The earliest courthouses now standing are most notable for the direct ways in which they employ a literal symbolism of the center in site and building design. Later courthouses owe more to the character of the district in which they are located--residential, commercial, historical, or institutional. Each type of courthouse site constitutes a context through which individual elements such as parks, monuments, walks, streets, and facades gain their particular significance or to put it another way, the site may be thought of in context as a theatre or stage on which individual elements are set. Although this may seem to be a small and passive contribution to the courthouse's image, context is actually the single most important key to the ways in which the courthouse is read or appreciated. Each setting, then, constitutes a critical framework for evaluating the essence of the courthouse image. No single framework could possibly work for all situations, therefore.

Fig. 2

At the scale of the city:



courthouse settings: types and relationships

This survey of county courthouses in Pennsylvania divides courthouse sites into two basic groups. In the first, the courthouse typically serves as a pivot or terminus within the surrounding landscape. Here, its prominence crucially depends on the maintenance of large-scale, complex patterns. In the second, the courthouse is set within a relatively homogeneous district where it establishes its image in concert with the historic, commercial, residential, or institutional elements of its immediate environs.

The strategy behind refining these two broad categories into specific types varies between the two groups. Among the pivotal/terminal courthouse sites, the importance of symbolism of the center leads us to define specific types along the lines of theme and variation (Fig. 3). Historically and generically, each type is analogous to a dialect, the group as a whole constitutes a single language. Dividing the second group into specific types serves simply to identify the character of the surroundings in which courthouses are nested. Here, there is no inherent logical or historical relationship between the types; as a group, these courthouses call for a more limited spatial outlook. Their symbolism tends to be intensive, as opposed to the extensive symbolic involvement of the landscape accomplished by the pivotal/terminal group. Nested courthouses emphasize the immediate; pivotal/terminal courthouses engage their surroundings and even entire townscapes in their expression of centrality.

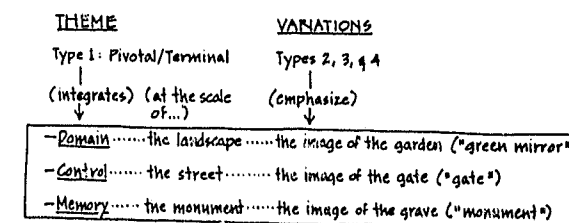
the pivotal/terminal courthouse: source book for the symbolism of the center

When the landscape as a whole is organized to be read as a single expression, the limits of its message are naturally established by the body itself--what the eye can take in a single glance, where the feet can walk, or where technology can extend these basic forms of observation without breaking continuity of form. The ultimate meaning of that message is established by the memory and its ability to integrate single glances, single trips, and single impressions into a coherent whole.

At the urban scale, memory is outrun by a vast range of possible impressions which are, by themselves, too diffuse to be shared easily by a single group. Memory is individualized and becomes a schema for anything or, as in James Joyce's Dublin, everything. For the small town, however, message, memory, and experience find a common scale across which communication is not only possible but a matter of the everyday confirmation of a community's shared sense of self and place. Where viewer and viewed are appropriate to each other, the community becomes an audience; its shared landscape becomes a theatrical stage.

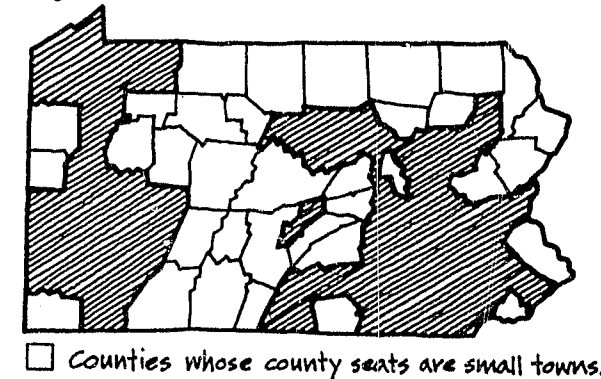
To find the symbolism of the center in action, we must look first to those small county seats that retain much of their original historical character. There are two important reasons for this focus. The first is historical: the small town was the original setting in which this symbolism developed, the main vehicle of this symbolism for the popular imagination, and it survives largely intact. The second reason is statistical: over half of Pennsylvania's courthouses are still located in small towns or cities which have managed to preserve a small-town character in the face of growth (Fig. 4). Much of the future of the courthouse, physical as well as symbolic, is tied to the fortunes of the small town, so susceptible to social and economic change.

Fig. 3



The extensive symbolism of Type 1 is thematically compressed through selective emphasis of component ideas of the 'symbolism of the center.'

Fig. 4



main street and the development of three ideas of centrality

In the small town, Main Street is truly the central focus; its prime physical location indicates its key place in the culture of the community. First and foremost, Main Street is made to be experienced. As one passes from the edge of town to the center, a message is spoken through the language of architecture--open space, paving, monuments, plants--and the language of human use. This message proclaims many things. To the outsider, it is a showcase of community wealth, pride, ethnic identity, regionalism, and patriotism. To the insider, it is a network of subtle stage whispers from neighbor to neighbor. But to stranger and native alike, Main Street is a middle ground where all may meet in a drama of community. It is also the stage setting of transition, where the journey from country to city can be a metaphorical climb up the social ladder.

Everywhere on Main Street, the physical and the symbolic coincide. Main Street is the primary source for the symbolism of the center because of its succinctness and clarity (Fig. 5). And, to some extent, we may also consider Main Street as the landscape equivalent of the courthouse. Street and building stand in a peculiar relationship to each other: street contains building, but building mirrors and miniaturizes the image of the street. Here, the courthouse is indebted to Main Street which is the more universal and commonplace image source of the two. Main Street's symbolism is diffuse, ubiquitous, and often ignored. The courthouse, its equivalent, is compact and pithy. But the courthouse's shorthand is frequently obscured by the extraneous marks of architectural fashion, local caprice, and technology. To see beyond these marks to the structure of symbolism, we must look genetically and historically to the sources of these meanings in the language of the street.

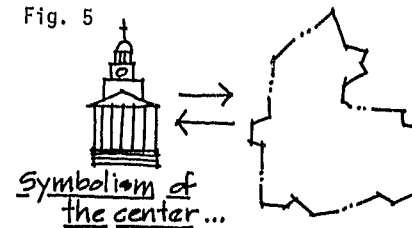
The symbolic status of Main Street may be summarized in terms of three codeterminative ideas; domain, control, and memory. First, through its spatial extension, Main Street establishes domain, a physical and ideal region where extremes (city/country, rich/poor, wild/domestic) are mediated in the concept of a single contiguous region (Fig. 5a). Main Street represents this by a single line of travel which traverses a multiplicity and, in so doing, constitutes a unity. Opposites are reconciled.

Second Main Street, the central thoroughfare, is a pivot for control of movement of all about it by conjoining tributaries of traffic into a single regulated procession. Symbolically, this idea of regulated flow is easily transferred to the ideas of disciplined and ethical life--and to the laws, mores, and customs behind such a life (Fig. 5b).

The third ideal component of Main Street is memory. Main Street grows from the heart of a town in a temporal as well as a spatial sense. Its endpoints extend as the city grows, and a journey from periphery to center enables a recovery of the origin of the community. Often this ideal journey is amplified by architecture since the middle of town often contains the community's most valued older structures (Fig. 5c). Memory is necessary for any experience of Main Street, if only for the reason that the perceiver must form his linear experience into a single entity. More importantly, the experience of Main Street is an act of memory where the street serves as a kind of mnemonic device through which history and tradition are recalled (and relived) through their associations with place.

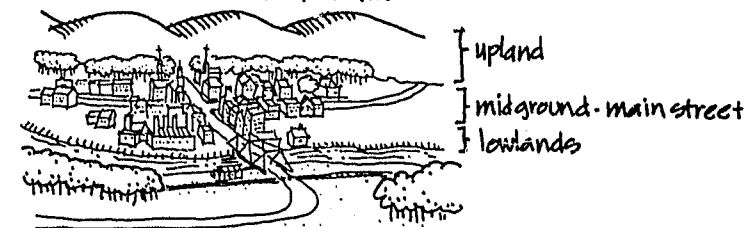
These three interrelated aspects of Main Street are evidenced in three separate forms: (1) physical terrain, (2) Main Street's principle intersection, and (3) the courthouse building itself. Each of these forms will be examined in some detail, but first, a brief explanation is necessary.

Fig. 5



has its origins in the extension of central authority to a unified domain/region.

and is best exemplified at the scale of the small town...



...where the landscape itself is the primary, extensive medium of expression.

The epitome of this symbolism, however, is Main Street, taken in the three senses of spatial extension, temporal extension, and control.

(1) Physical terrain often inspires and supports a pattern of land use which is, in addition, a kind of ideal order. Thus, an additional symbolic value is discovered in what otherwise might be judged to be a utilitarian response to a simple physical situation.

(2) The tripartite symbolism of Main Street (domain, control and memory) is carried intact to its principle intersection. Main Street is itself a pivot, since it serves to link roads connecting the extremities of the county (Fig. 6). However, the major intersection of Main Street is a more literal pivot; the monuments, greens, squares, and fountains often decorating this pivot miniaturize and intensify the three parts of Main Street's symbolism.

(3) The third level of evidence comes from the courthouse itself where the traditional trilevel organization of vault, offices, and courtroom provided a rich imagery. This internal organization seems at first to be only practical, and it is quite unlikely that the users or designers have been fully conscious of such symbolic associations. With the increasing modern preference for the practical over the symbolic, it is even more important to assess the psychological advantages of this relict architectural form.

Finally, these perspectives of terrain, intersection, and courthouse lead us to some understanding of the variations in courthouse siting. All courthouses convey a symbolism of the center, but some courthouses emphasize one of the three constituents of this symbolism. In nine counties, the courthouse stands opposite a park that elaborates the idea of domain. Five other courthouses emphasize the role of pivot or gate. Eleven highlight the theme of the monument. These variations in emphasis require special contexts for interpretation--contexts that enable us to distinguish special dialect from a common spatial language.

Fig. 5a ① SPATIAL EXTENSION: Domain

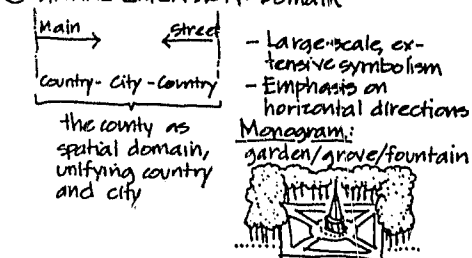


Fig. 5b ② CONTROL

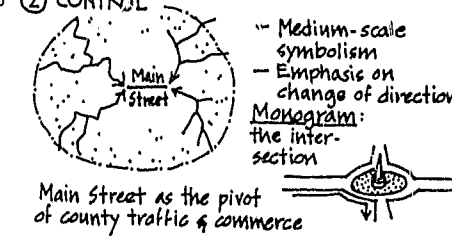


Fig. 5c ③ TEMPORAL EXTENSION: Memory

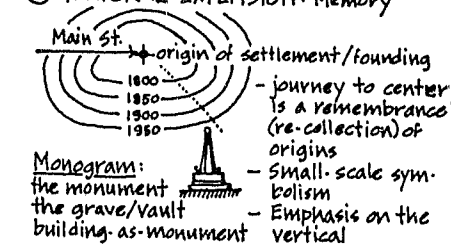
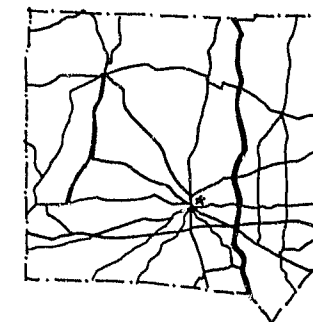


Fig. 6

At the scale of the county:

Mercer County: county seat as functional/transportation pivot of a region



terrain

Taking advantage of the physical shape of the land to enhance the image of the courthouse is a widespread practice (Fig. 7). Hills, ridges, peaks, and brows add a prominence architecture itself cannot provide. In certain cases, notably Greek Revival courthouses, the monumentality of a local hill had successfully attracted the courthouse away from a prestigious address on Main Street.

Yet there is a more subtle and pervasive use of terrain that, in the small town especially, distinguishes and defines the three principle components of Main Street's symbolism of the center. This use of topography suggests that the ultimate source of this symbolism is our perception of nature and that Main Street and the county courthouse are cultural enactments of what is first seen to lie in nature.

In the best example of the pivotal/terminal courthouse type, physiography falls into three distinct zones. Each of the zones favors a particular kind of human use, and thus the physical distribution of these zones has predetermined a distribution of human activities as well. At the small scale of these county seats, landform approximates an ideal order. Streets and architecture have perfected this approximation into a symbolic whole. Activities, together with the physical terrain they occupy, constitute a single symbolic unit.

Brookville (Jefferson County), a good example of this unification of land and land use, occupies the inner slope of three hills leading down to Red Bank Creek (Fig. 8). Along the river, the narrow floodplain provides sufficient flat land for the town's industries, shops, and lots. Higher up on the north bank of the river, a long strip of nearly level land parallel to the river had been molded to provide the base of Main Street. Above this mediary shelf, residences and a few prominent churches nestle along the tree-lined streets whose grid gives way to the persuasive contours of the hills. Three physiographic zones and three activity zones establish a vertical system using elevation as well as horizontal distance to separate and define discrete activities in a series of steps.

What is the significance of these steps to the symbolism of the center? In Brookville, the artifact best representing this vertical separation is Pickering Street which crosses Red Bank Creek from the south of town and climbs past the courthouse on Main Street to a cemetery at the crest of the residential hills. Pickering Street spans the spectrum in several senses; the industrial flats and fine residences are often perceived as the respective bottom and top of an imaginary economic, social, and perhaps even moral ladder. Significantly, this ladder also serves to explicate the vertical relationship between the components of the symbolism of the center.

If this analogy is correct, then the triad of domain, control, and memory has a bottom, a middle, and a top, just like the terrain of the county seats which most persuasively articulate the language of the center. The correspondences are not difficult to guess. Just as memorials and monuments seek prominent high ground, memory itself as a cerebral function stands "above" our daily actions and circumstances, unifying, selecting, and relating. In addition, the strong link between mountains and covenants in Judeo-Christian tradition tells us that high ground is required by tradition for any contract between God and man and that fidelity to this contract involves memory of that high place commemorated through sacrifice, offerings, prayer, and ritual—all acts designed to transcend the vertical distance between man and God.

Fig. 7

A Language of Terrain

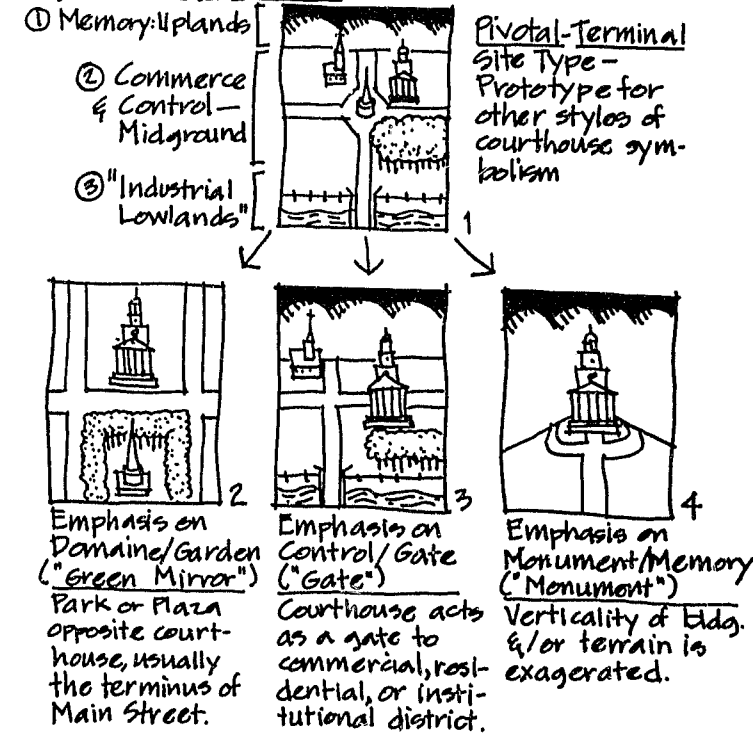
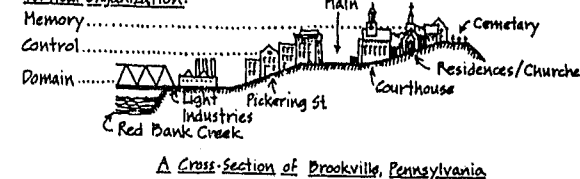


Fig. 8

Vertical organization



For the bottom of this scheme, we need to think in economic as well as spatial terms. The bottom is also a foundation, the ground of all activity. In the industrial zone along the rivers of many small communities, we find an economic base which is analogous to the land of the county, its primary and most fundamental resources. Where river flats are used for agriculture rather than industry, the analogy to the garden and, thus, to the image of domain becomes even clearer. Even where gardens are given over to machines, the river and its valley nourish the community both by providing the first sites for its farms and mills and by being the first means of commerce with other regions.

Between memory and domain stands control, the means of mediating mental with physical, memory with domain. Between the memorial highlands and productive lowlands of these small towns stretches Main Street. Its position and right-angled direction suggest a neutrality with respect to the vertical. It is, in addition, both elevated above the river flats and level, drawing from the imagery of both topographical zones which flank it. Main Street is the place of commerce that unites these two regions through the activities of banking, retail sales, and the regulative functions of the courthouse.

the main intersection

Just as Main Street is the most important street of a small town, the main intersection of this route is the most important point along that road. Symbolically, it is an intensification of the idea of Main Street: an enlargement and emphasis of its principal aspects, that place where quite literally we may find Main Street's diffuse or inchoate meanings compacted into single objects and set within a smaller stage. The intersection miniaturizes the more extensive presentation of Main Street into an image which can be taken in at a single glance.

The deep kinship between courthouse and intersections dates back to the first occasion of a public building's occupation and preemption of the public square. The significance of this must be examined in the context of the square's long and complex history in the planning of Western cities. Originally and enlarged intersection of streets, it has long served many religious and secular functions. As an enlarged intersection, the square was also an enlargement of the public life of the streets: marketing, socializing, politicking--all took on a particular intensity, skillfulness, and formality in the square. Significantly, this multiuse open space was traditionally shadowed by a church or cathedral whose sacred authority underwrote the secular activities of the square and whose physical steps were frequently the stage for its dramas. The location of public buildings in the center of squares, as first occurred in Germany, Poland, and Ireland, transferred this universal and sacred significance to the secular powers of the state. In America, this transfer enabled the county courthouse to retain a quasireligious status in the eyes of a community with rapidly diversifying religious preferences.

Although very few central squares are occupied by county courthouses in Pennsylvania (Mercer, Lackawanna), the symbolism developed in the square as a formalized intersection may be found in other locations. The square and the intersection echo the fundamental themes of small-town Main Street. The square is often developed into a grove or garden, and frequently main intersections in small towns are flanked by a park or graced by a medial plot of plantings. As in Mifflin County, this central greenery is accompanied by a marker memorializing the war dead, decked on special occasions with flags and wreaths--an offering both to those who died and to the covenants they defended.

All this takes place, of course, at that single point along Main Street where the regulated flow of traffic reaches a decision point. The salient activity is the collection and redistribution of pedestrian and vehicular traffic, and the spirit of the place is full of exchange, a flow of dramatic energy. Like railroad terminals, airports, and bus stations, Main Street's main intersection interrupts the regulated flow, but its crisis is a necessary part of Main Street's idea.

It is difficult to ignore this dramatic spectacle of life at the main intersection. The traditional connections between squares and pageants, processions, plays, executions, and rituals still influence the public's memory of how public spaces are to be used. But today, automobile traffic has overwhelmed and suppressed even informal and playful use of outdoor spaces. Drama has gone indoors, so to speak, first, to the courthouse where courtroom dramas were often "the best shows in the county," then to the romantic depths of movie theaters, and, at last, a retreat to the private circle in front of the television set. Where relicts of this more ancient use of outdoor space remain--in the forms of benches along Main Street, bus stops which are social encounters, or even in the mechanized tours taken by teenagers around a preselected loop or town streets--some means of recovering this valuable and humanizing use of space remains.

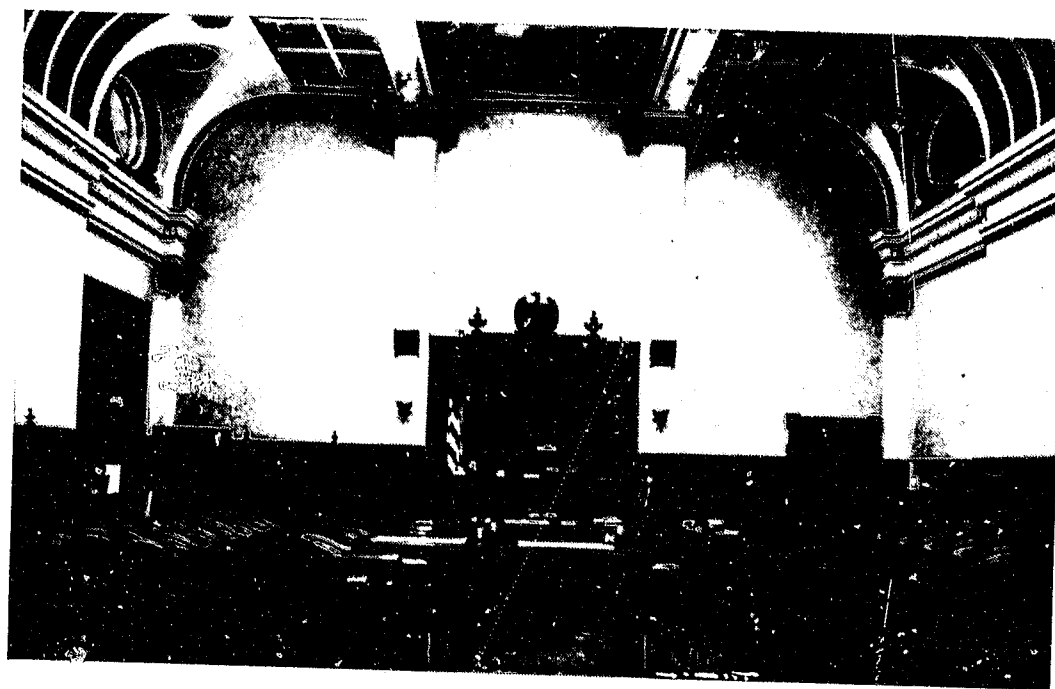
the courthouse building

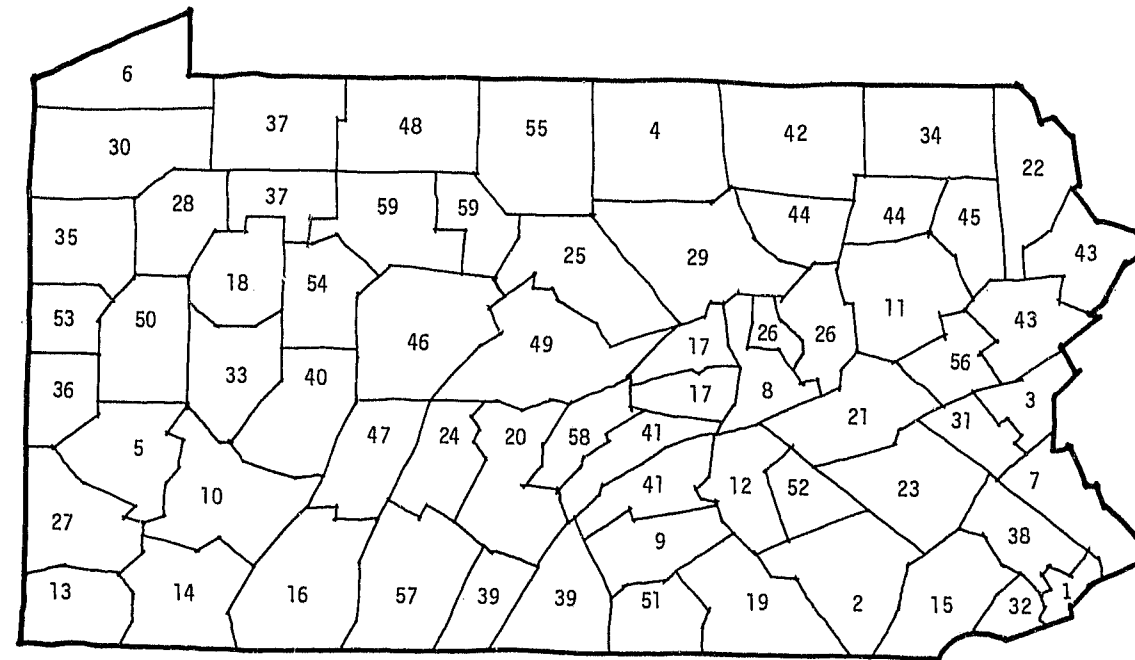
The courthouse building expresses the symbolism of the center intensively where traffic, technology, and changing patterns of land use have obscured the more extensive expressions of landscape. Where the scale of the town has outrun the individual's ability to perceive it as a single, unified image, the courthouse is often the only surviving repository of such centric symbolism. Some buildings have taken this role seriously and consciously represent domain, control, and memory in distinctive and unmistakable ways. At Dauphin, windows, floors, and walls bear illustrations of the county's history and ideals; Luzerne's county courthouse contains murals dealing with the county's founding and ideas of justice; many more courthouses display memorial plaques or display decorated maps of the county skirted by photographs and memorabilia.

Apart from this literal incorporation of the three symbolic themes, the courthouse speaks a more subtle and indirect language of mute gesture. Its height, extended by a clock and bell tower, make it a monument, an architectural replica of the Civil War memorials so frequently found nearby. The courthouse grounds represent a garden, grove, or park--a model of the county's domain, idealized through symmetry, planting, paving, fountains, and monuments. The building itself is a metaphor for control, the third component of the symbolism of the center--particularly when the jail is located nearby. This constant reminder of justice's other face is an architectural shadow of the courthouse building, both physically and symbolically. As in Clarion, Fayette, Schuylkill, McKean, Warren, Erie, Fulton, Cameron, Forest, and Centre Counties, the jail is visible as a symbol of the double aspect of the court function--to exonerate or condemn according to the scales of blind justice. In Fayette and Allegheny Counties, the courtroom is directly connected to the jail via a bridge reminiscent of the Bridge of Sighs of the Doge's Palace in Venice. The jail is a building once made to look like a cellar or dungeon. Now, modern social conscience has attempted to shift this image to one expressing reform. Still, this is the bottom level of the courthouse, in architectural and functional opposition to the top level occupied by the courtroom; and this opposition sets up a vertical structure identical to that encountered in the symbolic use of terrain.

This vertical emphasis is instructive, for it amplifies many faint historical echoes. The church, whose sacral role was usurped when the courthouse preempted the public square, is also vertically symbolic. The primary impetus of memorials is skyward; the courthouse's siting preference for hills, ridges, and artificial pediments suggests a preoccupation with heights. Even more arresting is the frequent vertical arrangement of older courthouses as an image of the symbolism articulated by terrain. The vaults on the ground floor contain a paperwork representation of the domain of the county; its wealth and its legal extension in space. The main floor is a kind of Main Street of official functions, directing business up or down. (In some courthouses, the glass partitions separating offices from the main corridor give an immediate sense of Main Street with its shops--this is the "regulated flow" of Main Street seen as legal business, the image of control.)

Above the main floor stretches a large church-like courtroom. The symmetry of ornamentation and furniture induces a piety akin to that expected in a church. Here, the judgment of souls is carried out in its earthly analogy with full ritual solemnity. In American law as in English common law, judgement is based on precedent so that the relationship between the courtroom and collective memory is traditionally close. Further, this connection with memory is not far from the idea of death, repeating the link between cemeteries and high ground found in terrain symbolism. Condemnation is a kind of death even if it does not imply capital punishment, for exile from the community is still regarded as social death. This high room is connected to the lowest room with its vaults and dungeons. But the connection is through the memorious function of judgment.





II: JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF PENNSYLVANIA (as apportioned by Act of 1951)

The voters of Pennsylvania went to the polls in May of 1968 and adopted a new Judicial Article to the 1874 Constitution. Section I of that newly adopted Judicial Article states that "The judicial power of the Commonwealth shall be vested in a unified judicial system consisting of the Supreme Court, the Superior Court, the Commonwealth Court, courts of common pleas, community courts, municipal and traffic courts in the City of Philadelphia and such other courts as may be provided by law and justices of the peace. All courts and justices of the peace shall be in this unified judicial system."

The Pennsylvania Commonwealth's general trial court is the Court of Common Pleas. This court is the only court of general jurisdiction in the Commonwealth and it is those facilities--the county courthouse, annexes and leased space--that serve this Court and the manner in which these facilities are able to satisfy their intended purpose that constitutes the primary body of this study.

Pennsylvania is divided into 59 judicial districts with one Court of Common Pleas per district. Eight districts contain two counties each, while the remaining districts contain only one county each. At this writing there are 320 judges serving the Court of Common Pleas' 59 judicial districts, though 24 districts have only one judge each. In most cases, the Court of Common Pleas has jurisdiction over all legal matters that are not within the exclusive jurisdiction of the lower courts. Many of the Courts are divided into civil, criminal, family and orphans divisions. Multi-judge divisions are headed by an administrative judge, while multi-judge Courts are headed by a president judge. These Courts also hear appeals from decisions of the lower courts though this study does not include the evaluation of magistrate courts, small claim courts or any such lower court that is located in a county courthouse presided over by a justice of the peace.

JUDICIAL DISTRICTS

JUD. DIST.	COUNTY	COUNTY SEAT	JUD. DIST.	COUNTY	COUNTY SEAT
51	Adams	Gettysburg	26	Montour	Danville
5	Allegheny	Pittsburgh	3	Northampton	Easton
33	Armstrong	Kittanning	8	Northumberland	Sunbury
36	Beaver	Beaver	41	Perry	New Bloomfield
57	Bedford	Bedford	1	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
23	Berks	Reading	43	Pike	Milford
24	Blair	Hollidaysburg	55	Potter	Coudersport
42	Bradford	Towanda	21	Schuylkill	Pottsville
7	Bucks	Doylestown	17	Snyder	Middleburg
50	Butler	Butler	16	Somerset	Somerset
47	Cambria	Ebensburg	44	Sullivan	LaPort
59	Cameron	Emporium	34	Susquehanna	Montrose
56	Carbon	Jim Thorpe	4	Tioga	Wellsboro
49	Centre	Bellefonte	17	Union	Lewisburg
15	Chester	West Chester	28	Venango	Franklin
18	Clarion	Clarion	37	Warren	Warren
46	Clearfield	Clearfield	27	Washington	Washington
25	Clinton	Lock Haven	22	Wayne	Honesdale
26	Columbia	Bloomsburg	10	Westmoreland	Greensburg
30	Crawford	Meadville	44	Wyoming	Tunkhannock
9	Cumberland	Carlisle	19	York	York
12	Dauphin	Harrisburg			
32	Delaware	Media			
59	Elk	Ridgeway			
6	Erie	Erie			
14	Fayette	Uniontown			
37	Forest	Tionesta			
39	Franklin	Chambersburg			
39	Fulton	McConnellsburg			
13	Greene	Waynesburg			
20	Huntingdon	Huntingdon			
40	Indiana	Indiana			
54	Jefferson	Brookville			
41	Juniata	Mifflintown			
45	Lackawanna	Scranton			
2	Lancaster	Lancaster			
53	Lawrence	New Castle			
52	Lebanon	Lebanon			
31	Lehigh	Allentown			
11	Luzerne	Wilkes-Barre			
29	Lycoming	Williamsport			
48	McKean	Smethport			
35	Mercer	Mercer			
58	Mifflin	Lewistown			
43	Monroe	Stroudsburg			
38	Montgomery	Norristown			

COUNTY CLASSIFICATIONS BY POPULATION

CLASS 1 COUNTIES Philadelphia	CLASS 6 COUNTIES Adams Armstrong Bradford Carbon Clarion Clearfield Clinton Columbia Crawford Indiana Jefferson McKean Mifflin Monroe Somerset Venango Warren
CLASS 2 COUNTIES Allegheny	CLASS 6a COUNTIES Bedford Elk Huntingdon Tioga
CLASS 2A COUNTIES Delaware Montgomery	CLASS 7 COUNTIES Greene Perry Snyder Susquehanna Union Wayne
CLASS 3 COUNTIES Berks Bucks Chester Erie Lackawanna Lancaster Lehigh Luzerne Westmoreland York	CLASS 8 COUNTIES Cameron Forest Fulton Juniata Montour Pike Potter Sullivan Wyoming
CLASS 4 COUNTIES Beaver Cambria Cumberland Dauphin Fayette Northampton Schuylkill Washington	
CLASS 5 COUNTIES Blair Butler Centre Franklin Lawrence Lebanon Lycoming Mercer Northumberland	

III: COURTHOUSE STUDY OBJECTIVES

description

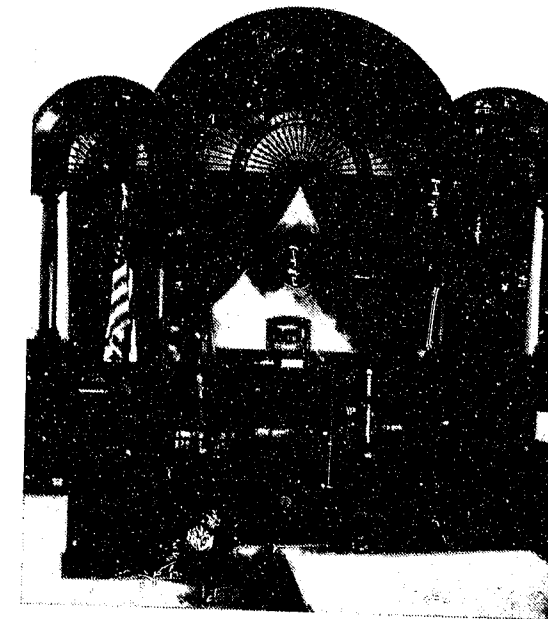
The Historical, Symbolic and Architectural significance of the Pennsylvania county courthouse, described in part I, presents a fitting foundation on which to build this subsequent study. It is fitting since the historic, symbolic and architectural significance of many of the Pennsylvania county courthouses and the public sympathy or lack of sympathy for these factors, paradoxically, is closely related to the reason that many county courthouse facilities fail to satisfy the purpose and continued requirements for which they were intended.

It can safely be said that for all of the 67 county courthouses in Pennsylvania, there is a deficit of financial resources required to maintain the facilities and functions in a satisfactory manner. In essence, this courthouse study is an inventory of existing county space and staff that should provide both a record and a useful base from which sound fiscal, administrative planning decisions can be made that will be mutually satisfactory and beneficial to all of those whose lives the activities of the courthouse affect.

On the one hand there is a desire by historians, preservationists and local citizens to preserve historically significant courthouses, that are eligible for or are listed on the National Register for Historic Places, but are now functionally or physically obsolete and are not able to satisfy the ever-changing role of the judicial system. On the other hand, there is an equally committed resolve by judges, court administrators, commissioners and local businessmen to recognize the failure of the county courthouse to satisfy these changing roles and to justifiably campaign for a completely new facility, though sometimes without regard for the continuing value of the historically significant courthouse to the well-being of the social and business community.

While each of these group's interests and intentions are purposeful in their recognition of the importance of the county courthouse, be it symbolic or functional, often the purpose of one group loses sight of the purpose of the other. And in doing so, the failure to recognize the need for both, the symbolic meaning and functional adaptability, invariably leads to compromise the effectiveness of the county courthouse to satisfy the original purpose and continued service to the community. The ability to achieve both objectives of symbol and function is easier said than done, particularly in light of the often-recognized maxim that "the court system is the servant of the legislature." Since the mood and the political composition of the legislature can change every four years, there exists an ever-changing situation which has a decided impact on the functional adaptability of a courthouse.

It is the purpose of this study to keep its sight fixed on all those factors that relate to the historic and symbolic significance, architectural expression and appearance, functional planning, physical conditions and on how well each of these factors satisfies current and expected needs for each of the 67 county courthouse facilities in Pennsylvania. Where county courthouses are found to be exemplary models for design they are so cited. Where county courthouses are found to be deficient, in one or more aspects of design, they are given a plan of action that might serve to remedy problems that are existing now or are anticipated in the near future.



IV: METHODOLOGY FOR STUDY

description

Architectural programming is the effort of combining, toward design parameters, the basic research on human factors, the information on client/user needs and resources, and on environmental conditions in the broadest sense. It develops two kinds of criteria: qualitative and quantitative. User requirements are derived from user characteristics and user activities.

Programming is a process leading to the statement of an architectural problem and the performance requirements to be met in offering a recommendation for action to meet user needs.

The search for user characteristics, user activities and the subsequent determination of performance requirements for this research study followed these procedures:

- establish goals
- collect, organize and analyze facts
- uncover and test programmatic concepts
- determine needs, state the problem

establish goals

The research and consultative services for this study included these goals:

- basic research
 - basic research related to the quality, quantity and conditions of judicial facilities as they affect the administration of justice and the citizen's opportunity of access to fair and equal treatment before the law.
- design guidelines
 - the establishment of design guidelines, optimum performance profiles and alternative criteria applicable to court facilities and county judicial centers, be it for the construction of new facilities or the improvement of existing ones.
- inventory, assessment
 - the inventory, description and assessment against accepted design and performance criteria of the sixty-seven (67) court facilities as they currently exist within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- survey data analysis
 - the analysis of survey data for determining the extent of inadequacies of existing facilities and the negative impact such deficiencies may have on the judicial process.

short-term recommendations

- the outline of recommendations for short-term improvements in building performance and the immediate compliance with applicable building guidelines.

long-term

- the outline of recommendations for the meeting of long-term needs, the planning for future needs, and the continuing review and evaluation of existing facilities and plans for new court facilities.

collect, organize and analyze facts

The following represents a concise summary of the various methods that were used to gather and analyze information and data in order to outline the short and long-term recommendations described in each of the individual county court facility monographs. However, this summary does not cover in detail the many procedures and techniques that were used throughout this study. To do so would require a sizable publication that would far exceed the scope and expectations of this study. General readers, researchers, programmers, president judges, court administrators or judicial staff members who seek additional information or further clarification may contact the Pennsylvania Court Facilities Study, Project Director, The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Architecture, University Park, Pennsylvania 16802

photographic documentation

Each courthouse and its immediate environs were photographed in order to describe the townscape setting (macro-micro context), architectural style and detail, and certain physical conditions that were appropriate for making a substantive evaluation.

field data surveys

A field data survey was filled out for each courthouse for the purpose of recording information that was related to the historical significance, contextual description, architectural description, functional description and physical conditions. While a uniform body of information was maintained, the limited duration of field visits and the conflict of schedules between field investigators and court staff representatives caused some data to remain incomplete or unverified. However, where information was lacking and was crucial to the final study, follow-up telephone calls were made and, in certain cases, follow-up field visits took place. In retrospect, some information that was compiled was found to be of little consequence to the established goals.

In certain counties the conditions found were such that the complexity of operation and the size of spatial allocation distributed throughout several court-related facilities would require an in-depth analysis that was beyond the time frame, scope, methodology and format used for this study. This

was the case for Allegheny and Philadelphia counties, though some general observations and recommendations could be made.

In other counties, plans for the renovation of court-related space were either just underway or about to begin. This was the case for Delaware and Washington Counties, though a general assessment of conditions and a basic evaluation of the project intentions could be made.

Finally, in some counties general construction was at a stage that prevented evaluation, as in portions of the Franklin County courthouse where the original courtroom was dismantled, and in Mifflin County where the original courthouse was being replaced, at the time of the field investigation, by a completely new facility.

verification of existing floor plans

In order to assess the existing functional relationships, floor plans of all sixty-seven (67) courthouse facilities--numbering over 400 drawings--were either drawn from field measurements, where no drawings of record existed, or redrawn and updated from existing documents that were verified in the field. This body of information alone may represent the single most valuable portion of this study since statistics based on ever-changing staffing data and case load volumes are short lived and soon outdated, while the courthouse plan will continue as the footprint to which all subsequent planning steps must address.

COURTHOUSE

IDENTITY: Franklin County Courthouse
LOCATION: 1000 N. 10th St. 1820
COUNTY: Franklin
JUDICIAL: Franklin County
PROFILE: Franklin County Courthouse
HISTORIC: Franklin County Courthouse
NATIONAL REGISTER: Franklin County Courthouse
BUILDING NUMBER: Franklin County Courthouse

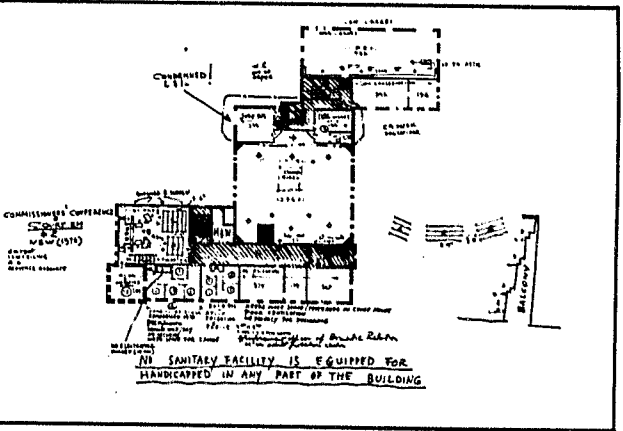
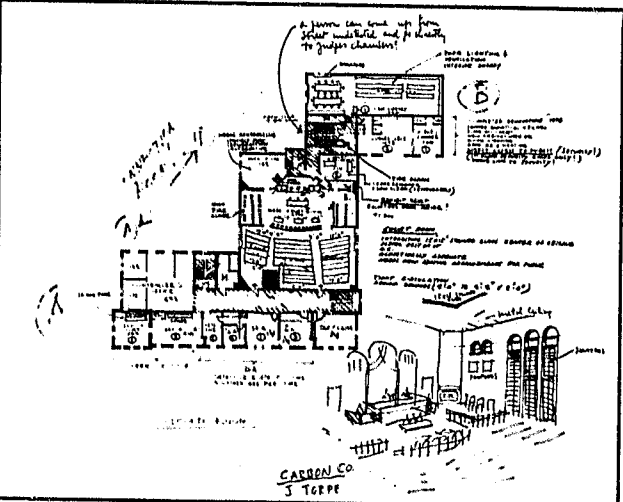
REGIONAL ACCESS

ON-SITE ACCESS

SECURITY

PARKING

STREET MAP



SUMMARY FORM
 Minimum 5 Working Hours
 by 1000 of Last September

PLANS FOR FUTURE INDICATIVES:
 PREVIOUSLY EXISTED DURING CONSTRUCTION PERIODS:
 WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING INDICATES ARE PRESENT ON THE MAP:

CORRECTIONS OF BY _____ WATER TOWERS OF BY _____ OTHER OF BY _____
 HEADING VARIATIONS OF BY _____ MECHANICAL DURING OF BY _____
 AND CONSTRUCTION DURING OF BY _____ STIMULUS OF BY _____

[illegible]

Those categories that were analyzed, evaluated and, when appropriate, given a recommendation for action are as follows:

- public convenience
- historical significance
- architectural character
- functional planning
- physical condition
- security, vulnerability
- records, information system
- expansion, flexibility

The procedure of uncovering and testing programmatic concepts for the purpose of establishing design guidelines against which the findings of all collected field data could be evaluated consisted of:

reference to
established
guidelines and
standards

During the initial stages of this study, established guidelines and standards derived from a variety of sources were read, reviewed on a comparative basis, and discussed, when necessary, with the respective source representative or author. On this basis it was concluded that

- those standards that were framed from the findings of composite statistical profiles were momentarily revealing but risky when used as an absolute determinant for planning and design, i.e., square foot space allocations, square foot projections, and optimum adjacency for functional units.
- those standards that did not recognize that the court system was the servant of the legislature --ever changing, that systems for the processing of records and general information were--ever improving, and that administrative and management techniques were--ever reflecting the change in laws and systems, were either not applicable to specific court facility needs or would soon be outdated and of little use.
- most guidelines and standards, while reasonably thorough within the established framework, were redundant in format and overly complicated in content. In some cases the body of information was found to be so sizable that the very reading and comprehension of the material became an arduous and tedious task.

reliance on
recommendations

During the course of this study many individuals with experience gained through active participation in the state's judicial system were contacted, including judges, court officials and department staff workers. Their counsel and ready willingness to offer their particular views on the effectiveness of court facilities to meet current and anticipated needs proved to be most valuable. In general, the insight from these conversations, interviews, or written responses to questions asked served to modify and adjust broad assumptions that are accepted as guidelines and standards for planning and design. From this insight it was concluded that

- most contributors were candid in their views while pointing out that all county court facilities cannot be categorized as an absolute framework of planning and design that will satisfy all needs. Namely, there are certain courthouses, most often smaller courthouses, where limited funds or space limitations preclude achieving certain prescribed design recommendations. Therefore, the best possible department (functional unit) adjacency or best possible manner of conducting daily business (optimization) was recommended.

reliance on
empirical findings

Firsthand observation of actual field conditions represented the backbone of this study. Based on the findings as related to guidelines and standards, to a reliance on recommendations, and to the learned intuition of an educated eye, certain court facilities were identified as desirable models for planning and design.

Those court facilities that were new and functionally planned to satisfy current needs and future contingencies were evaluated to be examples of commendable design.

Those court facilities that were older but continued to meet the changing space needs of the judicial system, despite certain physical limitations were also evaluated to be examples of commendable design.

Those court facilities that were older but functionally excellent, requiring only physical alterations or minor circulation or clerical changes, were evaluated to be examples of good design.

determine needs, state the problem

While the reference to established guidelines and standards, and the reliance on recommendations from judges, court officials and department staff workers, attorneys and others was instrumental in the uncovering and testing of programmatic concepts, the reliance on empirical findings was regarded to be the best source of information from which evaluations could be confirmed. It was the opinion of the research staff that there was no better way to uncover, to understand and to develop the educated eye towards the workings of court facilities than to visit many courthouses, each of which had some unique characteristic or some parallel reference to other facilities from which basic functional and physical needs could be determined, problems could be stated, and recommendations for immediate and long-term action could be suggested.

Visiting all sixty-seven (67) court facilities in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, analyzing a total square foot space allocation of over 7,180,000 square feet of which over 2,385,000 square feet is court-related (33%), and drawing over 400 court-related floor plans was an experience and a luxury that no private practitioner, serving a client, could possibly afford. It is on this foundation that all subsequent observations, assumptions, findings, evaluations and recommendations are made.

general assumptions and conditions

The following general assumptions and conditions should be taken into account while reviewing the findings of this study.

accuracy of
information

While it would be desirable that all information reported in this study were accurate and up-to-date at the time of its going to press in December of 1981, the practical reality is that the court facility field data survey, inventory and analysis were conducted during the period between June 1980 and March 1981. Since that time certain changes and improvements may have occurred, and where possible, these changes were recorded through follow-up calls and are reflected in this study. Similarly, other changes that might have occurred and were not reported are not reflected in this study.

schedule and tasks

February 1980 through May 1980
organization, goals, research methodology, models for investigation, design of field data surveys, measured drawings

June 1980 through September 1980
measured drawings, field data surveys, verification of existing floor plans, selected energy audit

	<u>October 1980 through March 1981</u> inventory, data analysis, uncover and test program-matic concepts, determine needs, state the problem		
	<u>April 1981 through August 1981</u> recommendations: immediate action, long-term action, recommendation drawings, evaluation index		
	<u>September 1981 through December 1981</u> retrospective, final production ready for press		
scope of study	<p>This study is concerned only with the Pennsylvania Commonwealth's general trial court which is the Court of Common Pleas. This study does not include the evaluation of magistrate courts, small claim courts or any such lower court that is located in a county courthouse presided over by a justice of the peace. Accordingly, this distinction is reflected in the analyzed square foot areas of this study.</p> <p>County court-related functional units (departments) are located in courthouses, courthouse annexes and various other buildings, some of which are owned by the county, some by local municipalities, and some are privately owned. For the purpose of this study only county-owned buildings containing court-related functions have been analyzed though, where information was available, non county-owned buildings containing court-related functions have received mention.</p>		
National Register of Historic Places	Where county court facilities are described as being listed on, or nominated for, the National Register of Historic Places, it shows that the particular building, site, or district has been recognized for its historic and architectural significance and does merit preservation.		
<u>definitions</u>			
In order to clarify terminology used in this study, the following definitions should be noted:			
gross floor area	- the total floor area of the building or the total area of the floor indicated, including net area, corridors, toilet rooms, mechanical equipment rooms, walls and all structural elements.	court-related, analyzed	- the total floor area allocated to court-related use, including court-related net area, corridors serving court-related use, walls and structural elements that are a part of court-related spaces.
		court-related, net usable	- all court-related usable space which is assigned to the activities of defined functional units, including storage spaces.
		county classification	All counties in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are grouped and classified by the size of their population. The classifications are as follows:
			class 1 1,800,000 and over
			class 2 800,000 to 1,800,000
			class 2A 500,000 to 800,000
			class 3 225,000 to 500,000
			class 4 150,000 to 225,000
			class 5 95,000 to 150,000
			class 6* 35,000 to 45,000
			class 6 45,000 to 95,000
			class 7 20,000 to 45,000
			class 8 20,000 and under
			* optional class: Bedford, Elk, Huntingdon, Tioga
		macro	- relating to the larger description of the county over which the county seat and the courthouse presides, including the geographic location and boundaries within the state, topographical features, major waterways, and major highways connecting the county seat to the outer county limits.
		micro	- relating to the description of the immediate setting of the courthouse, including the quality of the site, the visual and functional relationship of the courthouse to neighboring buildings, the general features of the site and buildings, and the adjacencies to offices, restaurants, parking and other municipal features indirectly associated with the daily business of the courthouse.
		contextual description	- relating to the macro and micro description of the courthouse, including the graphic indication of the courthouse, parking, bus stops, hospitals, courthouse entrance (public, handicapped, judge, defendant), railroads, major traffic routes, and intercounty routes.

V: PLANNING GUIDELINE CRITERIA

description

The planning guidelines used by this study to evaluate the general effectiveness of each court facility to satisfy the purpose and continued requirements for which they were intended were derived from several sources and were divided into eight basic categories. The criteria presented in each of these categories is qualitative in nature and applicable to most court facilities in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

In addition to these eight basic categories of planning guidelines, two additional categories relating to square foot space allocation and environmental comfort have been included. The criteria presented in each of these two categories is quantitative in nature and represents a composite range of figures that are not necessarily applicable to all court facilities in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania since court management policies that affect specific spatial needs vary widely in certain counties.

reference sources

public convenience, history, architecture, functional planning, physical condition, security, vulnerability, records management, information systems, expansion/flexibility

The summarized planning guidelines for each of the first eight categories are either derived from the empirical findings of this study or are modified and, in some cases, are excerpted from Allan Greenberg's Courthouse Design: A Handbook For Judges and Court Administrators (1975), prepared for the American Bar Association Commission on Standards of Judicial Administration. This source was selected as the most applicable reference for planning and design guidelines, though other references were reviewed and are described below.

space allocation
environmental comfort

The summarized planning guidelines for square foot space allocation and environmental comfort, shown in chart form, are either derived from the empirical findings of this study, the recommendations of the Institutional Advisory Services of The Pennsylvania State University, or are modified and, in some cases, are excerpted from F. Michael Wong's Design Handbook: Space Management and the Courts (1973), prepared for the National Institute of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice. This source was selected as the most concise and applicable reference for planning and design, where data could be quantified, though other references were reviewed and are described below.

basic information

American Institute of Architects and American Bar Association, Joint Committee on the Design of Courtrooms and Court Facilities, American Courthouse. Ann Arbor: Institute of Continuing Legal Education, 1972.

general content and design format

Johnson, Sue S. and Yerawadekar, Prakash. "Court-house Security." State of New York Office of Court Administration. New York, 1980.

National Center for State Courts: Northeast Regional Office. A Study of Massachusetts Court Facilities: The Summary and Evaluation Volume with Recommendations. Boston, 1975.

North Carolina State University: The School of Design. A Report on North Carolina Judicial Facilities. Raleigh, 1978.

fire safety standards

American Insurance Assoc., Engineering and Safety Service. Fire Prevention Code 197.

barrier free standards

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Dept. of Labor and Industry. Act No. 235, Sept. 1, 1965, P.L. 348 (amended).

EPVA publication. Barrier Free Design: The Law, Volume II.

public convenience (category one)

The following planning guidelines address the general ease of accessibility of the courthouse by the large numbers of people who visit regularly, including the judicial staff, litigants, spectators and the general public who conduct daily business.

vehicular movement
pedestrian flow

The county courthouse facility should be easily accessible from the point of view of improved roads, public and private transportation modes and the absence of congested traffic conditions.

The county courthouse facility must provide adequate parking space, either on-site or immediately adjacent, clearly reserved for the sole use of both the public court users and the court staff.

The county courthouse facility must be clear from any hazardous condition relating to vehicular movement and pedestrian flow, 24 hours per day, that might impede easy access to or compromise the security of the building.

handicapped

All vehicular and pedestrian access routes should be carefully planned and clearly identified with particular attention given to those who are physically impaired and/or visually handicapped.

The special needs of the handicapped and elderly should be recognized by providing access ramps at

	all entrances, automatic door openers, appropriate door hardware and toilet fixtures; appropriate telephones and drinking fountains, touch coding for the blind, and special parking spaces for wheel chairs in courtrooms.
signage, information	<p>The county courthouse facility should be clearly self-evident in its architectural character and its identification should be clearly marked by a sign that reads COUNTY COURTHOUSE.</p> <p>All public and staff entrances and stairs should likewise be carefully planned and clearly identified with the proper signs.</p> <p>Since the majority of courthouse facility users, especially jurors and witnesses, are in the building for the first time, all circulation routes should either be self-evident or clearly identified by some graphic means.</p> <p>A clearly legible, color-coded system of directories and signs should be prominently displayed near the main entrance to the courthouse facility.</p> <p>An information or reception desk should be located at the main entrance to the courthouse facility.</p> <p>Pre-taped jury information that announces the name of the trial, courtroom number, and date and time of convening, that can be received by calling a pre-determined telephone number, should be provided in order to relieve the telephone switchboard lines.</p> <p>A voice amplification system should be provided in all large courtrooms so that public and press can hear the proceedings clearly. This includes amplification in the jury box and a wireless microphone to be worn by those giving testimony while seated in the witness chair.</p>
functional adjacency	<p>All departments and court functional units should be located so as to maximize public convenience and promote efficient operation within the courthouse facility.</p> <p>Functional units serving large volumes of daily business should be located on the lower floors of the courthouse facility.</p> <p>Spaces for reading, working, conversation, games and watching monitored television should be provided in jury assembly rooms and in witness lounges where the magnitude of court trial activity warrants such attention.</p>

historical significance (category two) architectural character (category three)

The planning guidelines that address the historical significance of the courthouse facility and the respect for maintaining the integrity of architectural style and detail are described in the following essays by Donald E. Kunze, found in PART I: HISTORICAL, SYMBOLIC AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COURTHOUSE.

historic significance	Symmetries of time and style: The historic significance of the courthouse in Pennsylvania
cultural significance	A symbolism of the center: The cultural significance of the courthouse, its grounds, and its place in the townscapes of Pennsylvania.

functional planning (category four)

The following planning guidelines address general public and court-related staff access to functional units, and the desired location and functional adjacency within the courthouse facility.

functional unit location	<p>The majority of courthouse facility users usually have destinations in administrative or social service departments and should, therefore, find these functions on the first or some lower floor. This will reduce the numbers of users in the upper floor areas of the building.</p> <p>The administrative and social service functional units should be clearly separated from all of those functions that relate to the courtroom and courtroom support areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The former include the court administrator, prothonotary, clerk of courts, clerk of quarter sessions, register of wills (as part of the orphan's court), juvenile and adult probation, domestic relations, district attorney, public defender, youth and children's services. - The latter include judge's chambers, hearing and arbitration rooms, judge/attorney/client conference rooms, court reporters and law clerks. <p>In order to maximize efficient operation of court proceedings, there are certain departments that require direct access to the private circulation system that serves the courtroom for the movement of court records and personnel.</p>
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courtrooms,
courtroom support

A separate system of corridors, lobbies, and elevators must provide access to the courtrooms and courtroom support areas for public, defendants, judges, jurors, staff and attorneys.

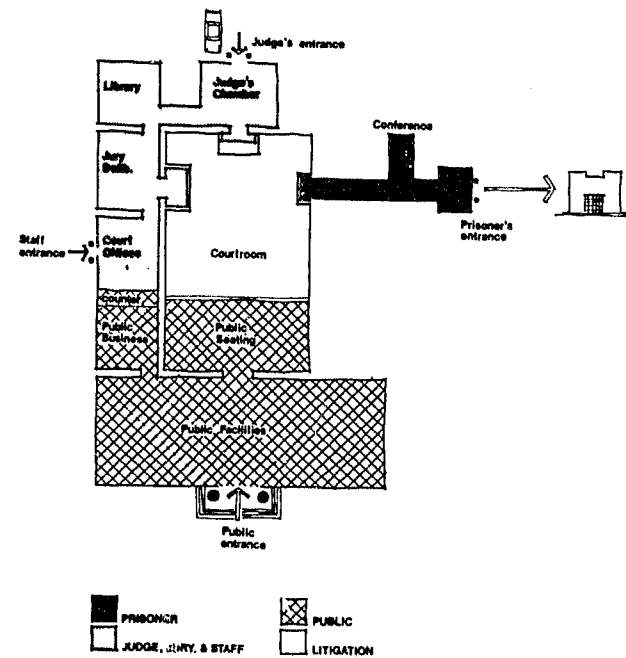
The segregation of jurors from the public is essential in order to maintain control over their movement and to preclude any contact with plaintiffs, defendants, their friends, witnesses, attorneys or other interested persons.

Judge's chambers and other courtroom support areas, including judge/attorney/client conference rooms, should be located in close proximity to their assigned courtroom.

A prisoner holding room should be provided adjacent to every criminal courtroom.

environmental comfort

When planning the location of court-related departments, the need to separate inherently noisy areas from private offices and courtrooms should be recognized.



physical condition (category five)

The following planning guidelines address the general physical condition of the courthouse facility as it relates to the site, the architectural, structural, hvac, plumbing, electrical, and life safety systems, handicapped use, and the attributes of the courtrooms, courtroom support areas, court-related offices, detention areas and auxiliary facilities.

site
handicapped

The county courthouse facility site, including curbs, sidewalks, grounds, stairs, benches and ramps, must be well maintained and clear from any hazardous condition relating to vehicular movement and pedestrian flow.

architectural
structural, hvac
electrical

A preventative maintenance program must be established in order to preserve the architectural character and physical integrity of the building.

All courthouse doors must be properly balanced and hung so that they swing in the direction that is expected.

All windows must be placed so that they provide emergency access when needed without providing easy access to vandals.

All air-handling units, particularly the movement of dampers, should be quiet and not disruptive to courtroom proceedings.

Public assembly rooms and court records work areas require frequent fresh air exchange.

Court records no longer stored for public access, that are kept in basement or other remote locations, must have proper climate control in order to prevent deterioration from mildew.

Light circuits should be organized room by room and not zoned floor by floor in order to maximize energy efficiency.

Office floor electrical outlets, raceways and telephone jacks must be safely concealed from any walkway.

courtroom
courtroom support
detention areas

Courtrooms and private support areas should not have exterior walls that are party to outside traffic and noise that is distracting to courtroom proceedings.

Jury deliberation and hearing rooms should be protected with 100% sound attenuation so that confidentiality and complete privacy are ensured.

Detention and prisoner holding areas should not be located on upper floors of the courthouse facility since prisoners can cause serious flooding conditions by clogging toilet drains.

General area lighting and task lighting must be provided and carefully planned in all courtrooms.

security, vulnerability (category six)

The following planning guidelines address the general precautions that must be taken in order to ensure the personal safety of court-related staff and detainees from harm and verbal abuse, to protect records from vandalism and fire, and to prevent the possibility of escape by detainees.

vandalism,
fire protection

The exterior of the courthouse should be lit by floodlights at night in order to discourage intruders.

courtroom

An alarm system to detect the presence of a person moving about in the courthouse after closing hours should be provided.

Departments that keep late hours or after hour schedules, such as adult and juvenile probation, should be located on the ground floor with either a separate entrance from outside or controlled access from inside. This provision eliminates the possibility of persons roaming freely through the building.

The number of hiding places in the courthouse should be eliminated by fitting all doors leading into restricted areas with security locks.

Public access to storage areas, janitor's closets, vaults, boiler and machine rooms, electric and telephone equipment rooms, and staff and prisoner elevators must be restricted.

An automatic fire detection and suppression system must be provided in those areas where valuable and irreplaceable court records are stored.

personal safety

Corridors connecting segregated circulation routes with public lobbies must be minimized and carefully monitored.

A private circulation system of corridors, stairs, and elevators should be provided for judges, jurors, court personnel and attorneys.

A private circulation system of corridors, that is completely segregated from the public and court personnel, should be provided for the movement of prisoners.

All office areas and their waiting rooms reached from public corridors, lobbies and general waiting areas should be enclosed. Receptionists in restricted areas can communicate with waiting rooms via a sliding glass window.

Maximum security for evidence rooms and particularly for the court reporter, who in many courthouses is the keeper of evidence once it has been entered as part of the trial testimony, must be provided.

In order to maintain the proper security control, only one public entrance into the courtroom should be provided.

Courtroom security personnel should be provided with metal detectors in order to simplify any necessary search procedures. This precaution will help to deter the possibility of passing contraband or weapons to prisoners.

Adequate law officer control must be provided in all courtrooms used for criminal trials and civil trials where divorce and child custody are an issue.

An emergency alarm system must be provided in all courtrooms and judges' chambers.

A bullet-proof panel must be provided under the front of all judges' courtroom benches used for criminal trials and civil trials where divorce and child custody are an issue.

Ready access to the judge's courtroom bench must be closed off.

Doors leading to the judge's chamber from the courtroom should be provided with an automatic lock and door closer.

Access to the courtroom well, where judge, jury, prosecution, defense, and witnesses preside, must be restricted by means of a barrier rail and an electronically-activated low door.

Witness lounges, located on each floor on which courtrooms are located, must be carefully sequestered.

escape prevention

An emergency generator and electrical power back-up system must be provided in the event of a planned power outage.

A prisoner holding room should be located adjacent to every courtroom used for criminal trials.

The door exiting from a prisoner holding room, or any room used for such purposes, should be located at a safe distance from any public access. This precaution will also deter the possibility of passing contraband or weapons to prisoners.

All keys to courthouse doors must be registered and all elevators used for the movement of prisoners must be key, not manually, operated.

records management, information systems (category seven)

The following planning guidelines address the general efficiency and ease of operation by the clerk of courts, prothonotary and the type of records, information and storage systems used.

work areas

Ample counter space for reference work on court dockets must be provided.

Record storage areas must be designed as work spaces with provision for air-conditioning and proper air exchange.

records, storage

Where possible, utilize a first-floor, one-stop, information and limited records center in order to reduce the number of public users that would normally congest the general records area.

Space-saving filing systems should be utilized, such as roto-stand, power files, lateral roll-out and double lateral roll-out files, replacing conventional vertical files and out-dated shuck files.

Where the court will accept facsimile records, records should be placed on microfilm and kept in the courthouse, while bulk records that have been copied should be removed to a safe, climate--controlled, storage area outside the courthouse.

expansion, flexibility (category eight)

The following planning guidelines address the means for accommodating future change and increased activity within the courthouse.

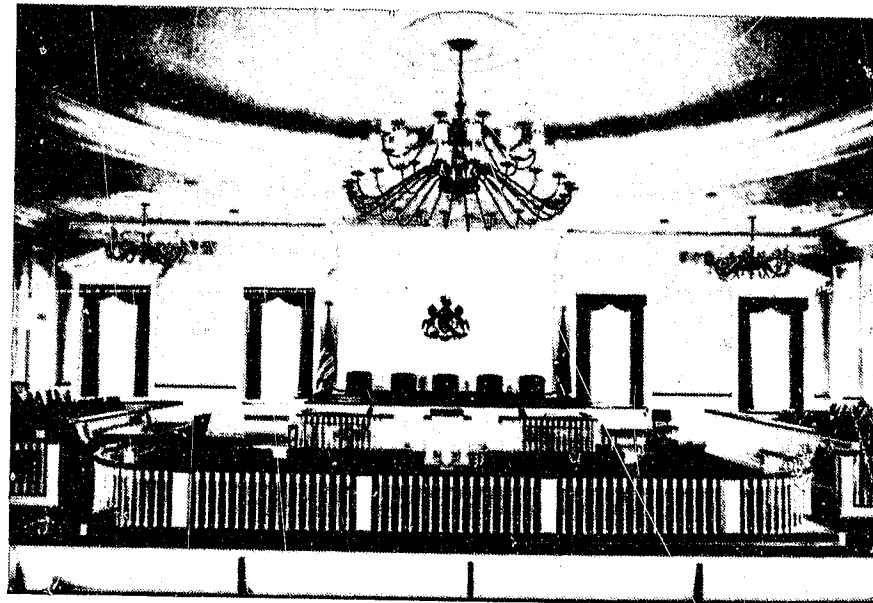
administrative,
social services

Administrative and social service spaces require flexible space in which partitions are moveable so as to respond to the administrative or procedural changes that affect staff spatial needs.

- All offices should be planned so that they can accommodate future changes in work layout.
- All departments should be planned so that they can be suitable for changing or expanding needs.

courtrooms,
courtroom support

The courtroom and courtroom support areas are unlikely to change during the life-span of the courthouse, other than the addition of more of the same, and may be considered to be permanent.



square foot space allocation (category nine)

GUIDELINES

SQUARE FOOT RECOMMENDATION GUIDE

Common Areas	sq.ft./person		Special Areas	
interview space	20-25	Jury	deliberation	20-30 (302-385 for 12 person jury)
secretary space	65-125			
private office	80-90		impaneling	20-30
task space(i.e. clerical)	45-85		lounge	15-25
conference space	25-30		entrance,registration, & grouping	10
service and supply space	(150 minimum total)	Jury Trial	judge	45-55
lounge/waiting space	15-20		clerk	30-35
public counter space	8-10		reporter	10-15
private toilet	20-40		bailliff/tipstaff	10-15
public toilet			attorney	30-40
			plaintiff/defendant	15-20
			witness	15-20
			juror	10
			press	10-15
			public	6-8
			witness isolation	45-65
		Judge's Chambers	retirement area	70-75
		Law Library	entrance and waiting area	6-8
			catalog area	8-10
			duplication area	10-20 (or 40-50/machine)
			stack area	10-12 volumes/sq. ft. of shelf
			reference area	(150 minimum total)
			processing desk	(100-125 total)
			librarian's office	(150-250)
			reading areas	30-40
			typing, and microfilm	30-40
		Administrative	computer-related space	varies with county
		Clerical	cashier station	40-50
		Ancillary	meeting	10-12
			detention space	12-15

environmental comfort (category ten)

JUDGE'S CHAMBER FACILITIES	general illumination level in footcandles	average absorption coefficient sabins/sq.ft.	noise intensity and frequency (noise criteria curve)	walls, floor, ceiling construction (sound transmission class)	winter temperature F.	summer temperature F.	ventilated air cfm/person
space							
judge's private office							
work space ²	100 fc	0.25 medium room finishes	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^b	72	78	15
conference space	30 fc				72	78	30
relaxing space	10-20 fc	0.25-0.40 medium to soft room finishes	nc30-45 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^b	72	78	15
private toilet					72	78	
kitchenette					72	78	20
coat closet					72	78	
secretary's office							
work space	100 fc	0.25-0.40 medium to soft room finishes	nc 30-45 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50	72	78	15
public waiting space	10-20 fc	0.25-0.40 medium to soft room finishes	nc 30-45 quiet to moderate	stc 35-45	72	78	15
law clerk's office							
work space					72	78	15
conference space	30 fc	0.10-0.25 hard to medium room finishes	nc 25-35 quiet	stc 45-50 ^b	72	78	30

JURY FACILITIES							
space	general illumination level in footcandles	average absorption coefficient sabins/sq.ft.	noise intensity and frequency (noise criteria curve)	walls, floor, ceiling construction (sound transmission class)	winter temperature °F.	summer temperature °F.	ventilated air cfm/person
jury commissioner's office		0.25 medium room finishes	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
commissioner's private office		0.25 medium room finishes	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
work space	100 fc	0.25 medium room finishes	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
interview space	30 fc		nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
secretary's office	100 fc	0.25-0.40 medium to soft room finishes	nc 30-45 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
lounge and waiting space	10-20 fc	0.25-0.40 medium to soft room finishes	nc 35-40 moderate to noisy	stc 35-45	72	78	15
general clerical office	100 fc	0.25-0.40 medium to soft room finishes	nc 35-50 moderate to noisy	stc 35-45	72	78	15
conference space (if necessary)					72	78	30
jury assembly	20 fc	0.40 soft room finishes	nc 35-40 quiet to moderate	stc 35-45	72	78	15
entrance, registration, & grouping	20 fc	0.40 soft room finishes	nc 30-45 quiet to moderate	stc 35-45	72	78	15
processing, general office	70 fc	0.40 soft room finishes	nc 30-45 quiet to moderate	stc 35-45	72	78	15
general waiting space	10-20 fc	0.25-0.40 medium to soft room finishes	nc 30-45 quiet to moderate	stc 35-45	72	78	15
entrance area	10-20 fc	0.25-0.40 medium to soft room finishes	nc 30-45 quiet to moderate	stc 35-45	72	78	15
noisy activity area	10-20 fc	0.25-0.40 medium to soft room finishes	nc 30-45 quiet to moderate	stc 35-45	72	78	15
informal lounge area	10-20 fc	0.25-0.40 medium to soft room finishes	nc 30-45 quiet to moderate	stc 35-45	72	78	15
group activity area	10-20 fc	0.25-0.40 medium to soft room finishes	nc 30-45 quiet to moderate	stc 35-45	72	78	15
individual activity area	10-20 fc	0.25-0.40 medium to soft room finishes	nc 30-45 quiet to moderate	stc 35-45	72	78	15
individual work space	70 fc	0.25 medium room finishes	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
ancillary eating & service space	30 fc	0.25-0.40 medium to soft room finishes	nc 35-50 moderate to noisy	stc 35-45	72	78	20
jury impanelling	30 fc	0.10-0.25 hard to medium room finishes	nc 25-35 quiet	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
jury deliberation	30 fc	0.10-0.25 hard to medium room finishes	nc 25-35 quiet	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
deliberation space	30 fc	0.10-0.25 hard to medium room finishes	nc 25-35 quiet	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
toilets (male and female)					72	78	15
coat closet					72	78	

a. cushion floor above to minimize noise.

environmental comfort (category ten)

JURY TRIALS		general illumination level in footcandles	average absorption coefficient sabins/sq.ft.	noise intensity and frequency (noise criteria curve)	walls, floor, ceiling construction (sound transmission class)	winter temperature F.	summer temperature F.	ventilated air cfm/person
court activity	Judge	70 fc	0.10-0.25	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50	72	78	15
	clerk	70 fc	0.10-0.25	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50	72	78	15
	reporter	70 fc	0.10-0.25	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50	72	78	15
	bailliff	70 fc	0.10-0.25	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50	72	78	15
	attorney	70 fc	0.10-0.25	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50	72	78	15
	party	70 fc	0.10-0.25	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50	72	78	15
	witness	70 fc	0.10-0.25	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50	72	78	15
Jury	juror	50-70 fc	approx. 0.25	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50	72	78	15
press	press	50-70 fc	approx. 0.25	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50	72	78	15
public	public	30 fc	approx. 0.25	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50	72	78	15

NON-JURY TRIALS and HEARINGS		average absorption coefficient sabins/sq.ft.	noise intensity and frequency (noise criteria curve)	walls, floor, ceiling construction (sound transmission class)	winter temperature F.	summer temperature F.	ventilated air cfm/person
conference space		0.25 medium room finishes	nc 25-35 quiet	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	30
waiting space		0.25 medium to soft room finishes	nc 30-45 quiet to moderate	stc 35-45	72	78	15
witness isolation		0.25-0.40 medium to soft room finishes	nc 30-45 quiet to moderate	stc 35-45	72	78	15
attorney's lounge		0.25-0.40 medium to soft room finishes	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 35-45	72	78	15
longe space		0.25-0.40 medium to soft room finishes	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 35-45	72	78	15
work space					72	78	15
press room		0.40 soft room finishes	nc 35-45 moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
interview space		0.40 soft room finishes	nc 35-45 moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
offices							

a. cushion floor above to minimize impact noise.



LAW LIBRARY

space	general illumination level in footcandles	average absorption coefficient sabins/sq.ft.	noise intensity and frequency (noise criteria curve)	walls, floor, ceiling construction (sound transmission class)	winter temperature 'F.	summer temperature 'F.	ventilated air cfm/person
counter and other user service space	70 fc	0.40 soft room finishes	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
entrance and waiting area	70 fc	0.40 soft room finishes	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
counter area	70 fc	0.40 soft room finishes	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
public	70 fc	0.40 soft room finishes	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
staff	70 fc	0.40 soft room finishes	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
catalog area	70 fc	0.40 soft room finishes	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
duplication area	70 fc	0.40 soft room finishes	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
reading and research space				stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
with desk				stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
carrel				stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
shared table				stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
armchair				stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
shelving and storage (frequently used books shelved 30-84 in. above floor)	30 fc			stc 35-45	72	78	15
staff spaces					72	78	15
processing space	100 fc	0.25-0.40 medium to soft room finishes	nc 30-45 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
maintenance and supply space				stc 35-45 ^a	72	78	15
private office	100 fc	0.25 medium room finishes	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
work space	100 fc	0.25 medium room finishes	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
conference space	100 fc	0.25 medium room finishes	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15

a. cushion floor above to minimize impact noise.

environmental comfort (category ten)

ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS	general illumination level in footcandles	average absorption coefficient sabins/sq.ft.	noise intensity and frequency (noise criteria curve)	walls, floor, ceiling construction (sound transmission class)	winter temperature °F.	summer temperature °F.	ventilated air cfm/person
space							
private office					72	78	15
director	100 fc	0.25 medium room finishes	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
work space	100 fc	0.25 medium room finishes	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
conference space	30 fc	0.25 medium room finishes	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	30
toilet		0.25 medium room finishes	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72		
coat closet		0.25 medium room finishes	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72		
other executive offices		0.25 medium room finishes	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72		
work space		0.25 medium room finishes	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
conference space		0.25 medium room finishes	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	30
secretary's office	100 fc	0.25-0.40 medium to soft room finishes	nc 30-45 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
private office	100 fc	0.25-0.40 medium to soft room finishes	nc 30-45 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
public space	100 fc	0.25-0.40 medium to soft room finish	nc 30-45 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
separate conference room	30 fc	0.10-0.25 hard to medium room finishes	nc 25-35 quiet	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	30
service and supply space					72	78	15
computer center (large metropolitan area)					72	78	15
data processing space					72	78	15
programming and analyzing space					72	78	15
computer equipment space					72	78	15
storage space					72		
staff amenities					72		

a. cushion floor above to minimize impact noise.

CLERICAL FUNCTIONS space	general illumination level in footcandles	average absorption coefficient sabins/sq.ft.	noise intensity and frequency (noise criteria curve)	walls, floor, ceiling construction (sound transmission class)	winter temperature F.	summer temperature F.	ventilated air cfm/person
public spaces	70 fc	0.40 soft room finishes	nc 30-45 quiet to moderate	stc 35-45	72	78	15
counter space	70 fc	0.40 soft room finishes	nc 30-45 quiet to moderate	stc 35-45	72	78	15
writing space	70 fc	0.40 soft room finishes	nc 30-45 quiet to moderate	stc 35-45	72	78	15
reading space	70 fc	0.40 soft room finishes	nc 30-45 quiet to moderate	stc 35-45	72	78	15
cashier station (staff space)	70 fc	0.40 soft room finishes	nc 30-45 quiet to moderate	stc 35-45	72	78	15
private office	100 fc	0.25 medium room finishes	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
chief clerk	100 fc	0.25 medium room finishes	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
work space	100 fc	0.25 medium room finishes	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
conference space	30 fc	0.25 medium room finishes	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	30
toilet		0.25 medium room finishes	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72		
coat closet		0.25 medium room finishes	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72		
separate conference					72	78	30
private space					72	78	15
secretary's office	100 fc	0.25-0.40 medium to soft room finishes	nc 30-45 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
private space	100 fc	0.25-0.40 medium to soft room finishes	nc 30-45 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
public space	100 fc	0.25-0.40 medium to soft room finishes	nc 30-45 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
other offices					72	78	15
work space					72	78	15
conference space					72	78	30
general offices	100 fc	0.25-0.40 medium to soft room finishes	nc 35-50 moderate to noisy		72	78	15

a. cushion floor above to minimize impact noise.

environmental comfort (category ten)

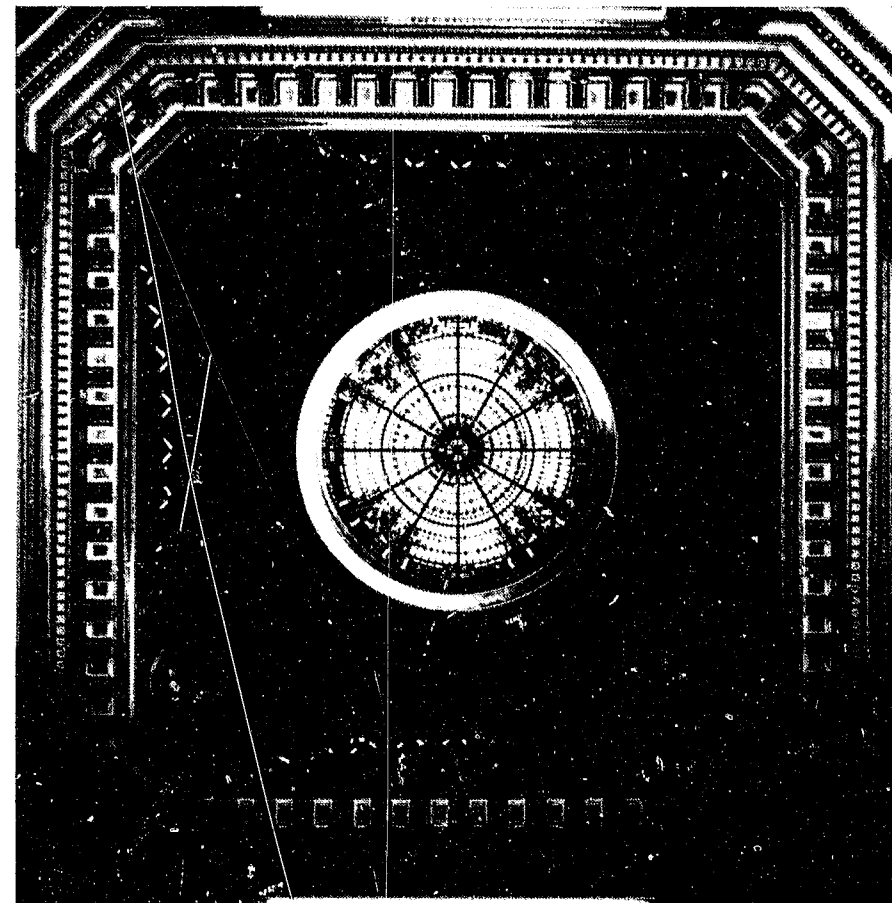
SUPPORT AGENCIES and SERVICE space	general illumination level in footcandles	average absorption coefficient sabins/sq.ft.	noise intensity and frequency (noise criteria curve)	walls, floor, ceiling construction (sound transmission class)	winter temperature F.	summer temperature F.	ventilated air cfm/person
private offices		0.25 medium room finish	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
executive offices		0.25 medium room finish	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
private space	100 fc	0.25 medium room finish	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
conference space	30 fc	0.25 medium room finish	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	30
toilet		0.25 medium room finish	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72		
coat closet		0.25 medium room finish	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72		
other offices		0.25 medium room finish	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72		15
private space		0.25 medium room finish	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	30
conference space		0.25 medium room finish	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
secretary's office	100 fc	0.25-0.40 medium to soft room finishes	nc 30-45 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
public waiting space	10-20 fc	0.25-0.40 medium to soft room finishes	nc 35-45 moderate	stc 35-45	72	78	15
conference space	30 fc	0.10-0.25 hard to medium room finishes	nc 25-35 quiet	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	30
interview space	30 fc	0.10-0.25 hard to medium room finishes	nc 30-45 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
meeting and lecturing	30 fc	see chapter 19 American Courthouse	nc 25-30 quiet	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
detention spaces	10-20 fc	0.25-0.40 medium to soft room finishes	nc 30-45 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72		15
medical spaces					72	78	15
reception	20 fc	0.25-0.40 medium to soft room finishes	nc 30-45 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
interview	20 fc	0.25-0.40 medium to soft room finishes	nc 30-45 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
examination	50 fc	0.25 medium room finishes	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15
treatment	50 fc	0.25 medium room finishes	nc 30-40 quiet to moderate	stc 45-50 ^a	72	78	15

a. cushion floor above to minimize impact noise.

summary

It will be noted that the guidelines for most of these categories are often interrelated, whereby the planning criteria for functional planning and security, vulnerability, or historical significance and architectural character, or public convenience and records management, information systems, or some other combination could all be interchanged or categorized together.

The guidelines are presented in separate categories so that the reader can quickly find those guidelines that are specific to the particular area of concern and the guidelines are presented in summary form so that the reader can quickly understand the most important and pressing issues that must be accounted for when evaluating an existing, or designing a new courthouse facility.



CONTINUED

1 OF 2

LEITCH COUNTY COURT HOUSE



VI: COURTHOUSE STUDY FINDINGS

description

The sixty-seven (67) county courthouse facilities in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania display a wide and disparate range of general conditions related to the eight categories that were perceived to be crucial to the suitability of courthouse facilities in satisfying the purpose and continued requirements for which they were intended. For example:

- public convenience

- the Philadelphia County court facility complex of many buildings, including the Philadelphia City Hall, is a maze of municipal, county and non court-related departments that are extremely difficult to reach due to the lack of guaranteed parking and the lack of consolidated functions, making an already complex situation even more difficult.

The Tioga County court facility, however, addresses the issue of public convenience in a manner that is commendable, by providing ample assigned parking, clear identification with the use of signs, special provision for the handicapped, and a floor plan handout, given to visitors, describing the location of all departments in the building.
- historical significance

- The Clearfield County courthouse facility, a building that merits recognition for placement on the National Register of Historic Places and deserves to be preserved for its historical significance, is no longer regarded locally to be of any value as a magnet to the downtown sector. It has fallen into a serious state of disrepair and it is the center of heated public debate over whether it should be razed or saved.
 - The Potter County courthouse facility is the object of considerable public pride, and though it is not without some serious internal physical problems, the building continues to serve as the jewel, if not the magnet, of downtown Coudersport.
- architectural character

- the Fulton County courthouse facility courtroom has been reduced from its original size and stripped of any dignity that might have prevailed during earlier times; a suspended tile ceiling, glaring lights, simulated wood paneling, and a general disregard for symmetry now prevail.

The main courtroom in the Clinton County courthouse facility, though much too large by today's standards and spectator demand, has recently

functional planning

physical condition

security, vulnerability

records management, information systems

- been refurbished and is certainly one of the most handsome courtroom spaces in the state.
- the new Mifflin County courthouse facility, completed in 1980, stands as a building that appears designed as an office facility first and a court facility second; even the office for the president judge appears to be but an after-thought.
- The Dauphin County courthouse facility, built in 1943, despite certain physical limitations, stands as a commendable example of foresight in functional planning, where courtroom support areas are commodious and dignified.
- the Elk County courthouse facility, including the older building and the new addition, shows indications of numerous physical problems and neglect.
- Conversely, in neighboring McKean County, the courthouse facility is certainly a building whose physical condition has been cared for; even its basement is spotless and is being used as a museum for the county historical society.
- in the Montgomery County courthouse facility, prisoners travel along routes that are ripe for the exchange of contraband. Court reporters are located in small offices along these routes, and as keepers of items entered as trial evidence, they leave their offices with doors wide open as a ready invitation to those who can see inside.
- The Franklin County courthouse facility has given careful consideration to security by providing a separate elevator for the prisoner, intercom signaling devices in the holding area, and carefully monitored access to the courtrooms.
- in the new addition to the Union County courthouse facility, the prothonotary and clerk of courts record files are located along a windowless outside room, while the office staff must work in an interior room; thus both functions suffer from the absence of natural light and proper ventilation.
- The prothonotary and clerk of courts work areas in the new Adams County courthouse addition recognize the value of outside light, ventilation and up-to-date record files.

expansion,
flexibility

the new Lycoming County courthouse facility has made no provision for expansion, though an additional two floors of shell space were considered, and is bursting at the seams.

On the other hand, the new Snyder County courthouse addition has built in shell space that can be assigned at a later date when additional space is needed.

Many such contrasts in conditions can be cited, not only throughout the state, but in some cases within the same courthouse facility complex.

The balance of PART VI : COURTHOUSE STUDY FINDINGS addresses the general observations that were confirmed from the empirical findings of this study and other studies reviewed, the most common problems encountered during this study--relating to the general condition of courthouse facilities, the merits and faults--relating to those courthouse facilities that were either found to be excellent or unsatisfactory in meeting the planning guideline criteria in each of the eight categories chosen for evaluation, and finally the composite evaluation--relating to the overall adequacy of courthouse facilities to meet the planning guideline criteria.

general observations

While the tenor of some of these observations was derived from other courthouse facility studies, all was confirmed by the empirical findings of this study.

administrative,
judicial policy

Within some courthouses there exists a basic conflict in responsibility between the county commissioners, president judges and the court administrators that leads to problems where decisions regarding court and non-court related spatial needs are an issue.

Difficulties arise in those courthouse facilities that have chosen not to serve adequately the expanded social responsibility of the post-Warren judicial system, by relegating child care, et al, to office space that is inadequate and undesirable, and in those courthouse facilities that are being taken over by an inflated attention to the spatial requests of those same social services.

Courthouse facilities that have heretofore accommodated only a few non-court related services, such as clerks, recorders and tax offices, are now stretched to the bursting point by the addition of county health departments, motor vehicle registration offices, veteran's affairs offices, state agricultural extension offices, and even

public convenience

architectural
character

functional planning

physical condition

an occasional county fair office.

The transfer of prisoners from detention centers to the courtroom is an expensive procedure, disruptive to the daily court schedule as a result of bringing in the wrong prisoner. In either case, such episodes engender a high rate of trial and pre/post-trial continuance requests by the prisoners and their attorneys.

In the larger county districts, where overcrowding has forced the courts to hold certain trial proceedings in local police stations, there exists a definite threat to the sense of judicial impartiality.

In most county courthouse facilities poor graphics are common; directories are non-existent or poorly placed and, whether the building is old or just recently completed, the first-time visitor is generally at a loss in finding his or her intended destination.

There is an increased disregard for the architectural character of courtroom interiors in order to meet short-term needs that are, at best, make-shift and of no lasting value. Courtrooms have been defiled by the reckless placement of suspended ceilings, surface light troffers, ineffective acoustical wall treatment, and the addition of furnishings that are lacking in comfort and character.

There are many recent courthouse facilities where the architects have been remiss in their attempt to understand and to solve even the most basic planning requirements.

In many cases president judges and the court staff were so anxious to abandon cramped quarters that anything new was acceptable, even if poorly planned, though in most cases such lack of foresight was later regretted.

It would be inadvisable to impose broadbrush planning and design guidelines on certain smaller county courthouse facilities which, by their size and unique characteristics, are justifiably satisfactory. It is a fine point to be recognized and respected, though not to be used as a justification for avoiding problem-solving.

Years of public wear and tear and the continuously changing use of facilities have made many

security,
vulnerability

courthouses difficult to rehabilitate and make-shift maintenance has little or no lasting value once deterioration has set in.

Security is a very serious problem that occurs throughout the state where the judge, attorneys, juries, spectators and prisoners use the same access routes to the courtroom. In many cases prisoners were observed to be left unattended in the courtroom while law officers left the area during a court recess.

records
management,
information
systems

The handling of voluminous court records creates spatial problems that are not necessarily solved by introducing microfilm, since this system requires additional space for readers and since some courts and judges will not accept facsimile records as credible evidence.

expansion,
flexibility

There are too many recent courthouse designs that fail to recognize the continuous shift and growth of administrative court-related functions that require physical and structural provision for flexibility and future expansion.

Those counties who rely on the leasing of space to solve their expanded needs may not be following the most cost-effective solution. The cost of leases, with no capital equity gain, and the scattered and dispersed location of services, sometimes duplicated, creates fiscal problems and inhibits the ease and effectiveness of interaction and internal operation.

most common problems encountered

While the following problems are not necessarily the most critical encountered during each courthouse facility evaluation, they do represent those problems that were most common and could, in most cases, be rectified by some immediate action.

public convenience

- limited provision for public transportation to the courthouse.
- absence of street directories describing the location of entrances and court-related functions.
- absence of suitable provision for the handicapped both outside and inside the courthouse.
- inadequate provision for parking reserved solely for users of the courthouse.

entrances, lobbies

- too many entrances, making it difficult for the first-time visitor to know where to enter.
- indiscriminant reorganization of lobbies into smaller areas that are filled with public toilets, concession and vending machines where cases for the storage of empty soft drink bottles are often seen.

prothonotary,
clerk of courts

- inadequate provision for work counter space, natural light, and suitable climate control.
- persistent use of inefficient and out-dated shack files that could be replaced by lateral files.
- the continued storage of long out-dated records that take up valuable space, which could easily be stored in some other county building.

courtrooms,
courtroom support

- inadequate number of attorney/client conference rooms provided adjacent to courtrooms.
- too many accessways to and from courtrooms compounding already serious security problems.
- during court recess, prisoners are often left unattended by security officers, thus increasing the chances for escape.
- inadequate provision for amplification and, in most cases, no provision for a wireless microphone for use by the witness who chooses not to lean forward to speak into a fixed microphone.

Merits and Faults

The following county courthouse facilities were either found to be excellent or unsatisfactory in meeting the PLANNING GUIDELINE CRITERIA in each of the eight categories chosen for evaluation.

public convenience	17 COUNTY COURTHOUSE FACILITIES WERE FOUND TO BE EXCELLENT.		historical significance	55 COUNTY COURTHOUSE FACILITIES WERE FOUND TO BE EXCELLENT.	
	Adams Clinton Dauphin Franklin Indiana Jefferson Lancaster Lawrence Lebanon	Lehigh Luzerne Lycoming McKean Mercer Mifflin Monroe Westmoreland		Adams Allegheny Armstrong Bedford Blair Bradford Butler Cambria Cameron Elk Erie Fayette Forest Franklin Fulton Greene Huntingdon Jefferson Juniata Lackawanna Lancaster Luzerne McKean Mercer Monroe Montgomery Montour Northumberland	Carbon Centre Chester Clarion Clearfield Clinton Columbia Cumberland Delaware Perry Philadelphia Pike Potter Schuylkill Snyder Somerset Sullivan Susquehanna Tioga Union Venango Warren Washington Wayne Westmoreland Wyoming York
	23 COUNTY COURTHOUSE FACILITIES WERE FOUND TO BE UNSATISFACTORY.			2 COUNTY COURTHOUSE FACILITIES WERE FOUND TO BE UNSATISFACTORY.	
	Beaver Bedford Berks Bradford Butler Cameron Chester Clarion Clearfield Columbia Delaware	Fulton Greene Huntingdon Lackawanna Montgomery Northumberland Philadelphia Pike Schuylkill Sullivan Wayne York		Indiana	Lawrence

architectural
character

37 COUNTY COURTHOUSE FACILITIES WERE FOUND TO
BE EXCELLENT.

Adams	Jefferson
Allegheny	Lancaster
Armstrong	Luzerne
Bedford	Lycoming
Berks	McKean
Bradford	Mercer
Bucks	Monroe
Butler	Montgomery
Cambria	Somerset
Carbon	Sullivan
Centre	Susquehanna
Clinton	Tioga
Crawford	Venango
Cumberland	Warren
Dauphin	Washington
Erie	Wayne
Fayette	Westmoreland
Franklin	Wyoming
Greene	

8 COUNTY COURTHOUSE FACILITIES WERE FOUND TO
BE UNSATISFACTORY.

Cameron	Lawrence
Fulton	Montour
Indiana	Philadelphia
Juniata	Potter

functional planning

6 COUNTY COURTHOUSE FACILITIES WERE FOUND TO
BE EXCELLENT.

Dauphin	Lancaster
Franklin	Luzerne
Jefferson	Monroe

43 COUNTY COURTHOUSE FACILITIES WERE FOUND TO
BE UNSATISFACTORY.

Adams	Lebanon
Armstrong	Lehigh
Beaver	Lycoming
Bedford	McKean
Berks	Mifflin
Blair	Montour
Butler	Northampton
Centre	Perry
Chester	Philadelphia
Clarion	Potter
Clearfield	Schuylkill
Clinton	Snyder
Columbia	Somerset
Crawford	Sullivan
Delaware	Susquehanna
Elk	Union
Erie	Venango
Fayette	Warren
Forest	Wayne
Greene	Wyoming
Huntingdon	York
Lackawanna	

Merits and Faults

physical condition

34 COUNTY COURTHOUSE FACILITIES WERE FOUND TO BE EXCELLENT.

Allegheny	Lebanon
Berks	Lehigh
Bradford	Luzerne
Bucks	Lycoming
Cambria	McKean
Carbon	Mercer
Centre	Mifflin
Chester	Monroe
Clinton	Montgomery
Cumberland	Perry
Dauphin	Snyder
Erie	Somerset
Fayette	Susquehanna
Franklin	Union
Jefferson	Venango
Lackawanna	Washington
Lancaster	Westmoreland

19 COUNTY COURTHOUSE FACILITIES WERE FOUND TO BE UNSATISFACTORY.

Beaver	Fulton
Blair	Huntingdon
Butler	Montour
Cameron	Northumberland
Clarion	Philadelphia
Clearfield	Potter
Crawford	Schuylkill
Delaware	Tioga
Elk	Warren
Forest	

security, vulnerability

10 COUNTY COURTHOUSE FACILITIES WERE FOUND TO BE EXCELLENT.

Bucks	Lancaster
Cambria	Luzerne
Dauphin	Lycoming
Franklin	Mercer
Jefferson	Monroe

32 COUNTY COURTHOUSE FACILITIES WERE FOUND TO BE UNSATISFACTORY.

Bedford	Lackawanna
Blair	Lebanon
Butler	Lehigh
Cameron	McKean
Carbon	Montgomery
Centre	Montour
Chester	Northampton
Clarion	Perry
Clearfield	Philadelphia
Clinton	Schuylkill
Columbia	Somerset
Cumberland	Tioga
Elk	Union
Fayette	Washington
Forest	Wayne
Huntingdon	York

records
management,
information
systems

26 COUNTY COURTHOUSE FACILITIES WERE FOUND TO
BE EXCELLENT.

Adams
Armstrong
Beaver
Berks
Blair
Bucks
Butler
Cambria
Centre
Chester
Cumberland
Dauphin
Delaware

Erie
Huntingdon
Indiana
Lackawanna
Lancaster
Lehigh
Lycoming
Mercer
Monroe
Montgomery
Schuylkill
Union
York

11 COUNTY COURTHOUSE FACILITIES WERE FOUND TO
BE UNSATISFACTORY.

Bedford
Crawford
Fayette
Fulton
Juniata
Lawrence

Luzerne
McKean
Mifflin
Philadelphia
Westmoreland

expansion,
flexibility

11 COUNTY COURTHOUSE FACILITIES WERE FOUND TO
BE EXCELLENT.

Adams
Greene
Jefferson
Lancaster
Lawrence
Lycoming

Monroe
Potter
Snyder
Susquehanna
Westmoreland

40 COUNTY COURTHOUSE FACILITIES WERE FOUND TO
BE UNSATISFACTORY.

Allegheny
Armstrong
Beaver
Bedford
Berks
Blair
Bradford
Bucks
Butler
Cambria
Centre
Chester
Clarion
Clearfield
Columbia
Cumberland
Delaware
Elk
Erie
Fayette

Fulton
Indiana
Juniata
Lackawanna
Luzerne
Mercer
Montgomery
Montour
Northumberland
Perry
Philadelphia
Pike
Schuylkill
Somerset
Sullivan
Tioga
Washington
Wayne
Wyoming
York

Composite Evaluation

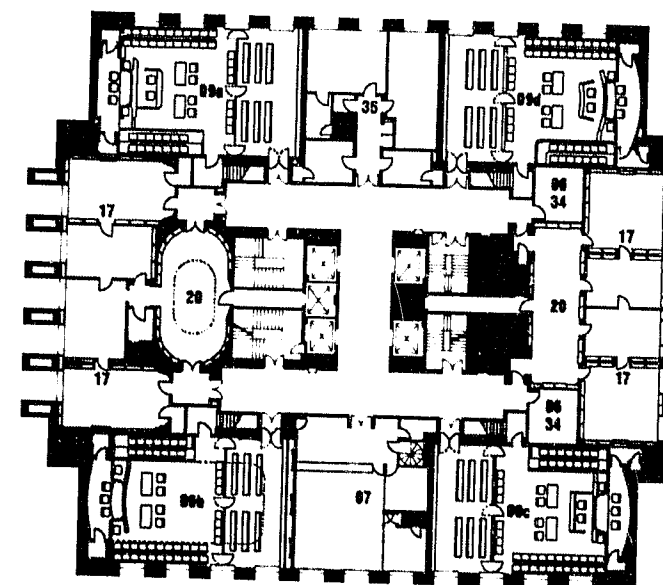
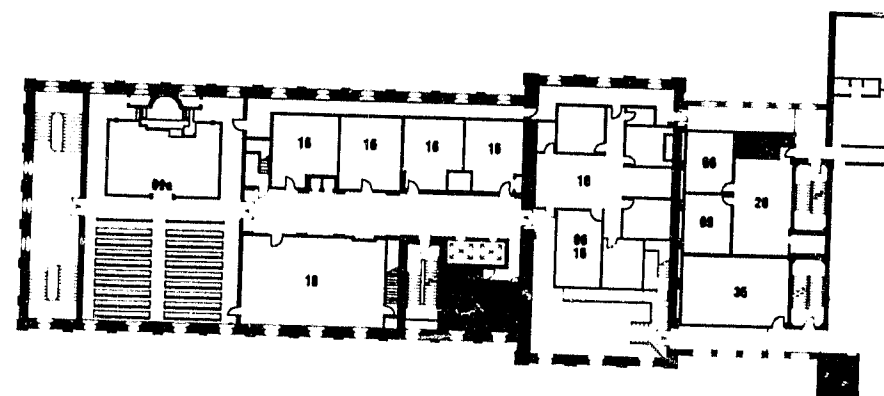
On the basis of the overall adequacy of each courthouse facility to meet the planning guideline criteria in each of the eight categories chosen for evaluation, the following composite evaluation was made:

excellent functional design	2 COUNTY COURTHOUSE FACILITIES MERIT COMMENDATION FOR DESIGN AND CONDITION. Lancaster Dauphin	new annex recommended	14 COUNTY COURTHOUSE FACILITIES REQUIRE A NEW ANNEX. Allegheny Clearfield Beaver Cumberland Bedford Delaware Bucks Fulton Cambria Huntingdon Centre Northumberland Chester Pike
good functional design	3 COUNTY COURTHOUSE FACILITIES MERIT MENTION FOR BASIC DESIGN AND CONDITION. Franklin Juniata Luzerne		
better use of space	8 COUNTY COURTHOUSE FACILITIES REQUIRE MINOR SPACE PLANNING. Bradford Monroe Cameron Montgomery Forest Tioga Jefferson Westmoreland	questionable building value	2 COUNTY COURTHOUSE FACILITIES HAVE A QUESTIONABLE VALUE FOR COURT USE. Indiana Philadelphia
	38 COUNTY COURTHOUSE FACILITIES REQUIRE MAJOR SPACE PLANNING. Adams McKean Armstrong Mercer Berks Mifflin Blair Montour Butler Northampton Carbon Perry Clarion Potter Clinton Schuylkill Columbia Snyder Crawford Somerset Elk Sullivan Erie Susquehanna Fayette Union Greene Venango Lackawanna Warren Lawrence Washington Lebanon Wayne Lehigh Wyoming Lycoming York	building value has ceased	NO COUNTY COURTHOUSE FACILITY WAS FOUND WITHOUT VALUE THAT WOULD JUSTIFY RAZING OF THE BUILDING.

LANCASTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE



DAUPHIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE



MERITS/FAULTS

- PUBLIC CONVENIENCE
- HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE
- ARCHITECTURAL CHARACTER
- FUNCTIONAL PLANNING
- PHYSICAL CONDITION
- SECURITY
- RECORD SYSTEM
- EXPANSION/FLEXIBILITY

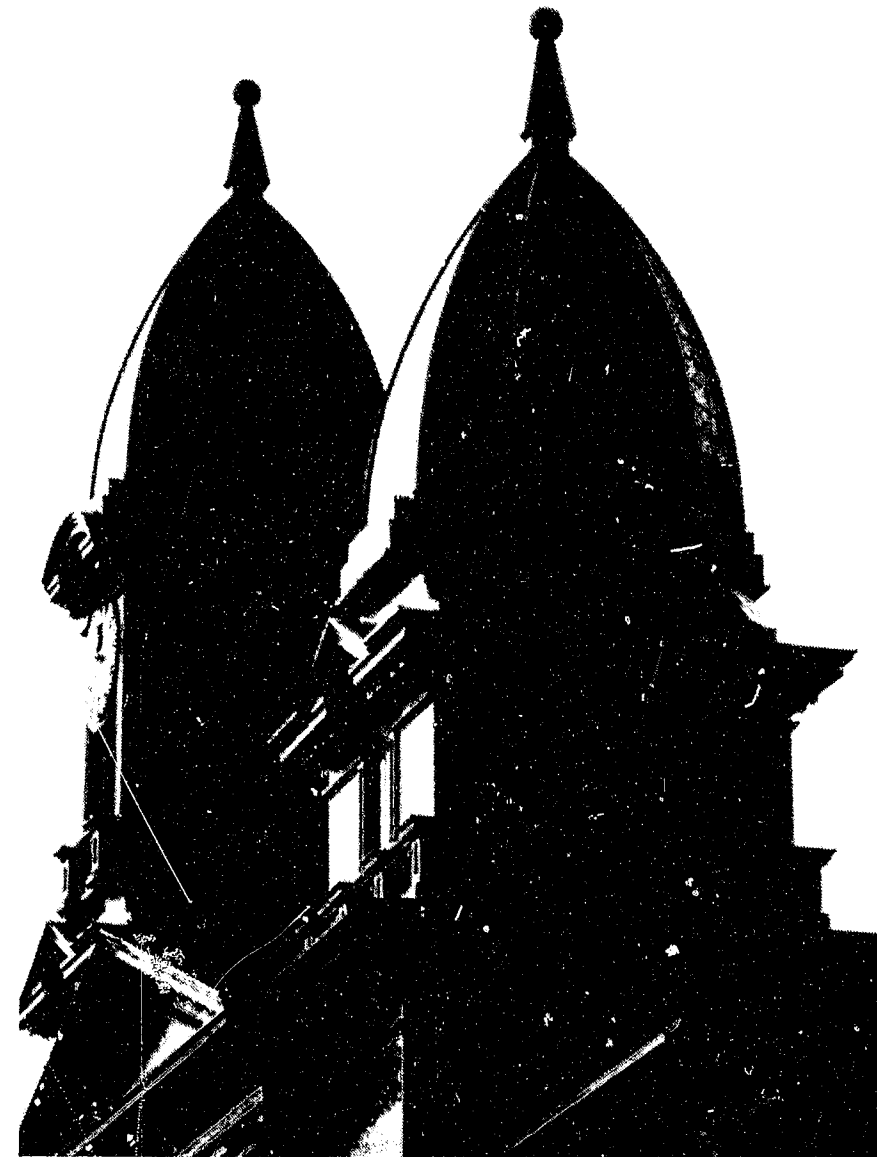
1	ADAMS	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
2	ALLEGHENY	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
3	ARMSTRONG	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	BEAVER			✓	✓	✓	✓							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	BEDFORD			✓	✓	✓	✓							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	BERKS				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	BLAIR					✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	BRADFORD						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	BUCKS						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	BUTLER							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11	CAMBRIA							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	CAMERON								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	CARBON								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14	CENTRE									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15	CHESTER									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16	CLARION										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17	CLEARFIELD											✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
18	CLINTON												✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
19	COLUMBIA													✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20	CRAWFORD														✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
21	CUMBERLAND														✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
22	DAUPHIN															✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
23	DELAWARE																✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

EVALUATION INDEX

A.																						2	
B.																							
C.	2		2		1	2	2	1		3		1	2			2		2	2				
D.		3		2					4	2			2	1		1				3		3	
E.																							
F.																							

- EVALUATION INDEX:
- A. Excellent functional design, space allocation and physical condition.
 - 1. Optimum plan, provides for future contingencies
 - 2. Optimum plan, given physical limitations
 - B. Good functional design, but physical alterations required.
 - 1. Mechanical, electrical, or plumbing alterations required
 - 2. Non-structural alterations required
 - 3. Minor structural alterations required

- ✓ excellent
- satisfactory
- ✓ unsatisfactory



VII: SELECTED ENERGY AUDIT

description

Today's energy costs are moving at such a rapidly accelerating rate that it is becoming a matter of economic necessity to make the required capital expenditures to retrofit the existing courthouse facilities and improve their energy consumption characteristics. However, technical feasibility is not necessarily the same thing as economic feasibility and it becomes necessary to take into account such variables as:

- the climatic characteristics of the region in which the building is located;
- the building age and type of structure;
- the utility rates in the specific location;
- the local variations in the cost of retrofit measures.

Because each courthouse facility is unique, a general document cannot identify the specific energy use patterns that exist for each building. It is possible, however, to identify typical patterns of consumption for buildings that fall under similar categories of use, such as schools and functional units of local government.

While the scope of this study would not permit sixty-seven (67) individual county courthouse facility audits, five (5) courthouse facilities were selected on the basis of their different architectural styles, building size and age, for the purpose of demonstrating both the process and the approximate findings that other courthouse facilities in a similar category might expect. It should be noted that the findings are approximate and the Pennsylvania Governor's Council and its contractor are not liable if potential cost-savings identified as a result of using this audit are not actually achieved.

The five categories and related building groups are listed as follows:

early 19th century style	BEDFORD	Centre Chester Cumberland Forest Franklin Fulton Greene Potter
Italianate	JEFFERSON	Adams Armstrong Clarion Clearfield Clinton Elk Huntingdon Juniata Mifflin Montour Northumberland Perry Pike Snyder Warren Wayne Wyoming
Second Empire style	CAMBRIA	Bradford Crawford Luzerne McKean Mercer Somerset Washington Westmoreland
Victorian, Gothic, Romanesque style	BUTLER	Blair Cameron Carbon Columbia Fayette Lackawanna Schuylkill
contemporary style	LYCOMING	Cumberland Franklin Lancaster Lawrence Wayne

Twenty-two (22) county courthouse facilities cannot reasonably be included in the preceeding list due to such variables as:

- the square foot and cubic area is considerably larger than other buildings;
- the annex additions are contrasting in style and not comparable to other building groups;
- the building condition, configuration and use of large expanses of glass are not comparable to other building groups.



BEDFORD

The Bedford County Courthouse represents an early 19th century style of architecture. The current structure is more than 150 years old with an addition, at the western end, which is over 100 years old. The building is rectangular in plan and measures 93 feet long by 54 feet wide; the main entrance faces east along an east-west axis. The two-story building, with a basement and a cupola, is organized symmetrically around a double-loaded, central corridor which runs from the main entrance foyer to the rear of the building. One courtroom, 2020 square feet in area and located in a central position, dominates the second floor. The total floor area in the building is 14,910 square feet.

The exterior walls, covering a total surface area of approximately 7,605 square feet, are solid brick, 12 inches thick. There is virtually no exterior wall insulation. The windows are single-pane glass; both frames and glass are loosely fit causing considerable air leakage. The gable roof, covering a total surface area of approximately 5,616 square feet, is constructed of a wood deck and black asphalt shingles on wood rafters. The enclosed attic space has 12 inches of loose-fill insulation. The building is heated by a central steam radiator system fed by an oil-fired boiler located in the basement; a coal-burning boiler remains unused. Hot water is provided by a central electric water heater. Though unit ventilators (not for cooling) are present in the courtroom, there exists no other form of mechanical air-conditioning in the courthouse. Fluorescent lighting prevails throughout the courthouse and is only supplemented in the courtroom by incandescent fixtures.



BUTLER

The Butler County Courthouse represents a Victorian, Gothic or Romanesque style of architecture. The current structure is 97 years old with an addition that is 68 years old. The building is basically rectangular in plan and measures approximately 125 feet long by 108 feet wide; the main entrance faces east along an east-west axis. The three-story structure, with a basement and fourth floor attic area used for some offices, is organized around a double-loaded corridor which connects the entrance lobby with a three-story central rotunda; a large 190-foot high central clock tower dominates the front facade. Two courtrooms, one 2880 and the other 1450 square feet in area, are located on the second floor. The total floor area in the building is 59,680 square feet.

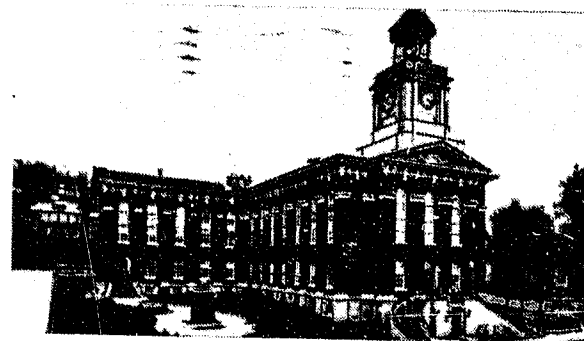
The exterior walls, covering a total surface area of approximately 63,105 square feet, are local sandstone with brick lines, 22 inches thick. There is virtually no exterior wall insulation. The windows are single-pane glass; both frames and glass are loosely fit in some places causing moderate air leakage. The steeply pitched roof, covering a total surface area of approximately 12,348 square feet, is constructed of wood deck and slate on large wood rafters. Skylights were added to the courtrooms when the present roof was constructed 74 years ago, but they have since been covered. There is virtually no insulation in the attic space beneath the roof. The building is heated by a central steam radiator system fed by two gas-fired boilers located in the basement. Hot water is provided by a gas-fired system. The only mechanical air-conditioning is provided by direct expansion coils located in individual rooms, including the courtrooms. Fluorescent lighting prevails throughout the courthouse and is only supplemented in the courtrooms by incandescent fixtures.



CAMBRIA

The Cambria County Courthouse represents a Second Empire style of architecture. The current structure is 100 years old with an addition that is 57 years old. The building is basically cruciform in plan and measures approximately 235 feet long by 60 feet wide along its long axis, and 175 feet by 30 feet wide along its short axis; the main entrance faces west and is located at the intersection of the two axes. The three and one-half-story building, with a basement and some usable attic space, is organized around a spacious three-story atrium which is located at the intersection of the two axes. Three courtrooms, each covered by a dome, are located on the second floor at the north, south and east terminus of the axes. The total floor area in the building is 43,420 square feet.

The exterior walls, covering a total surface area of approximately 43,060 square feet, are smooth brick, 22 inches thick. There is virtually no exterior wall insulation. The windows are single-pane glass; both frames and glass are loosely fit causing considerable air leakage. The mansard roof, covering a total surface area of approximately 15,965 square feet of which 966 square feet is glass skylights, is constructed of a wood deck and slate on concealed wood and iron structural members. There is virtually no insulation in the partial attic space beneath the mansard roof. The building is heated by a central steam radiator system fed by two coal-burning boilers located in the basement. Hot water is provided by a multiple system of gas and electric water heaters. There is no mechanical air-conditioning system in the courthouse. Fluorescent lighting prevails throughout the courthouse and is only supplemented in the courtrooms by incandescent fixtures.



JEFFERSON

The Jefferson County Courthouse represents an Italianate style of architecture. The current structure is 113 years old, with an addition that is 55 years old. The building is L-shaped in plan and measures approximately 100 feet long by 52 feet wide; the addition to the west side is 55 feet wide; the main entrance faces south along a north/south axis. The three-story building, with a basement and a clock-tower cupola, is organized around a double-loaded corridor which runs from the front entrance lobby to a staircase, located at the intersection of the older building and the newer wing, where it turns at a right angle. Two courtrooms, one 3,795 and the other 680 square feet in area, are located on the second floor. The total floor area in the building is 32,070 square feet.

The exterior walls, covering a total surface area of approximately 18,716 square feet, are brick with two-foot square pilasters approximately 11 feet on center. There is virtually no exterior wall insulation. The windows are single-pane glass; both frames and glass are loosely fit in some places causing moderate air leakage. The low gable roof, covering a total surface area of approximately 8,828 square feet, is constructed of a wood deck and asphalt shingles on wood rafters. There is virtually no insulation beneath the roof system. The building is heated by a central steam radiator system fed by two sets of 5-modular gas-fired boilers located in the basement. Hot water is provided by a gas-fired system. There is no mechanical air-conditioning system in the courthouse. Fluorescent lighting prevails throughout the courthouse and is only supplemented in one of the courtrooms by high-intensity discharge fixtures.



LYCOMING

The Lycoming County Courthouse represents a contemporary style of architecture. The current structure is 11 years old. The building is basically square in plan and measures 124 feet on a side at the first floor and 132 feet on a side on the floors above; the main entrance faces south. The four-story structure, with a basement and a mechanical equipment penthouse, is organized around a central service core that includes elevators, stairs, and a donut-shaped, double-loaded corridor. Three courtrooms, one 1220, one 1080 and another 1505 square feet in area, are located on the second floor. The total floor area in the building is 82,900 square feet.

The courthouse is a steel frame structure; the exterior walls, covering a total surface area of approximately 36,815 square feet, are brick and concrete block, 14 inches thick. The windows are double-pane glass; both frames and glass are tightly fit and there results little air leakage. The flat roof, covering a total surface area of approximately 17,300 square feet, is constructed of a corrugated metal deck with a lightweight concrete fill and two inches of rigid insulation covered with a built-up roof. The building is heated around the perimeter by an electric heat pump and internally by reheat coils within the ventilation ducts. Air is supplied by two air-handling units that are located in the penthouse and is circulated through ceiling plenums. Central cooling is provided in the same system by chilled water from an electric centrifugal chiller also located in the penthouse. Hot water is provided by two electric water heaters, one located in the penthouse and the other in the basement. Fluorescent lighting prevails throughout the courthouse except in the two smaller courtrooms where incandescent fixtures are used.

selected energy audit findings			marginal hr./day regulation		set day thermostats at 65°F.		reduce glass by 50%		reduce light		set night thermostats at 55°F.		add roof insulation	
notes	county	analyzed space*	initial cost	annual savings	initial cost	annual savings	initial cost	annual savings	initial cost	annual savings	initial cost	annual savings	initial cost	annual savings
A,D,F,	BEDFORD	Large Commons	\$0	\$16	\$0	\$58	\$357	\$60	—	—	\$0	\$276	—	—
		General Area	\$0	\$212	\$0	\$455	\$2499	\$21	—	—	\$0	\$730	—	—
A,B,D, E,F,G, H	BUTLER	Large Commons	\$0	\$38	\$0	\$29	\$808	\$95	\$0	\$148	—	—	—	—
		Large Commons	\$0	\$20	\$0	\$22	\$606	\$71	\$0	\$98	—	—	—	—
		General Area	\$0	\$804	\$0	\$1344	\$18,233	\$2152	—	—	—	—	—	—
A,D,E, F	CAMBRIA	Large Commons	\$0	\$77	\$0	\$38	—	—	—	—	—	—	\$747	\$175
		Large Commons	\$0	\$30	\$0	\$17	—	—	\$0	\$207	—	—	\$251	\$59
		Large Commons	\$0	\$30	\$0	\$17	—	—	\$0	\$207	—	—	\$251	\$59
		General Area	\$0	\$611	\$0	\$127	—	—	—	—	—	—	\$1744	\$409
A,D,E, F	JEFFERSON	Large Commons	\$0	\$17	\$0	\$23	\$1275	\$196	—	—	—	—	\$609	\$371
		Large Commons	\$0	\$4	\$0	\$6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		General Area	\$0	\$593	—	—	\$5984	\$921	—	—	—	—	\$919	\$560
A,B,C, G,H	LYCOMING	Large Commons	\$0	\$14	\$0	\$106	—	—	\$0	\$74	\$0	\$163	—	—
		Large Commons	\$0	\$13	\$0	\$103	—	—	\$0	\$65	\$0	\$161	—	—
		Large Commons	\$0	\$9	\$0	\$111	—	—	—	—	\$0	\$168	—	—
		General Area	\$0	\$697	\$0	\$2257	—	—	—	—	\$0	\$3164	—	—

Mechanical systems general recommendations:

- A. System put on night setting from end of daily use to start of warm-up on next day of use. Outside dampers shut during this period. Setback may begin as early as 2 pm if experimentation indicates adequate building heat retention.
- B. Shut cooling system off during unoccupied hours. Make maximum use of free cooling by running air system with chillers off.
- C. Central plant chillers: Operate chillers only during hours of program use when cooling is required. Make maximum use of free cooling by using outside air without chillers whenever possible. Clean, adjust, and repair chillers annually.
- D. Boilers used for space heating: Fire lead boiler only when daytime outdoor temperature is below 65 degrees F. and overnight temperatures below 40 degrees are expected.
- E. Boilers used for space heating: Fire first back-up boiler only when load is too great for lead boiler alone. This will probably occur below 32 degrees F. in the heating season.

F. All boilers general suggestions:

1. test and adjust combustion efficiency annually.
 2. clean, repair, and adjust boilers annually.
 3. clean, repair, and adjust auxiliaries annually.
- G. Non-boiler heating plants: These are fast pick-up systems which can be operated to closely match the building program use. Operate each heating unit only when needed. Operate no unit on day setting more than 40 hours per week.
 - H. Non-boiler heating plants: Inspect, clean, adjust, and repair all elements at least once a year.

seal windows		replace lighting		set supply air temp. to 65°F.		double glaze windows		disconnect reheat coils		totals		fuel		
initial cost	annual savings	initial cost	annual savings	initial cost	annual savings	initial cost	annual savings	initial cost	annual savings	initial cost	10 year savings	type	% savings w/ investment	% savings w/o investment
\$101	\$44	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	\$458	\$4540	elec.	0%	8%
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	\$2499	\$18,180	oil	5%	15%
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	\$808	\$1620	elec.	0%	12%
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	\$606	\$1130	gas	39%	24%
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	\$18,233	\$23,668			
\$259	\$40	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	\$747	\$1865	elec.	3%	6%
\$130	\$20	\$1890	\$318	—	—	—	—	—	—	\$381	\$3330	coal	4%	1%
\$130	\$20	\$1890	\$318	—	—	—	—	—	—	\$381	\$3330			
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	\$1744	\$4828			
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	\$1884	\$6070	elec.	0%	10%
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	\$0	\$100	gas	20%	0%
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	\$6903	\$20,740			
—	—	—	—	\$0	\$64	—	—	\$0	\$52	\$0	\$3990	elec.	0%	27%
—	—	—	—	\$0	\$57	—	—	\$0	\$46	\$0	\$3800			
—	—	—	—	\$0	\$79	—	—	\$0	\$64	\$0	\$4310			
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	\$0	\$10,764	\$0	\$168,820			

The following is a list by which initial costs were computed:

Capital Modification	Cost
Replace existing lighting with improved fluorescent	\$1.00/square foot
with HID type system	\$1.00/square foot
Seal windows	\$0.60/square foot of window
Reduce glass area(replace with insulated panels)	
pre-1945	\$10.25/square foot of window
post-war	\$4.25/square foot of window
Double-glaze windows	
pre-1945	\$13.85/square foot of window
post-war	\$4.25/square foot of window
Increase roof insulation(4 methods)	
1. blow wool into attic	\$.00 +\$.02/R*/square foot
2. batts above existing ceiling	\$.00 +\$.05/R/square foot
3. rigid insulation, reroof	\$.75 +\$.12/R/square foot
4. suspended ceiling and batts	\$.00 +\$.12/R/square foot

* R is the value of insulation relative to its thickness.

VIII: VALUE OF COURTHOUSE STUDY

retrospective

The Pennsylvania court facilities study, which extended from February 1980 through December 1981, has been completed. The DESCRIPTION, GUIDELINES, RECOMMENDATIONS volume and the separate MONOGRAPH for each of the sixty-seven (67) county court facilities, which constitute the final report of this study, contain a wealth of information about the state's courthouses as well as specific findings, evaluations, and recommendations.

While the far-reaching value of this study to president judges, court administrators and all those who are actively involved in the judicial process and the daily court business will only be determined over time, the expectations are that it will be of value as:

- a graphic record of court-related floor plans of the 67 Pennsylvania county courthouses; a lasting record for those who plan and design courthouse facilities.
- an inventory of staff and space allocation that is concise, clearly readable, and useful for determining whether court facilities are above or below accepted guidelines for planning and design.
- a means for selecting the most appropriate trial site when a change in venue is required and when special provision for security and special court support facilities are required.
- a reference model for short-term (immediate) and long-term action, and as a means for identifying and solving problems that exist now or are anticipated in the future.
- a reference model for energy conservation measures that apply to a similar courthouse building type; court administrators can follow the suggested audit form or suggested recommendations.
- an overview that describes the adequacy of the Pennsylvania county courthouse system in serving the functional and physical needs of the judicial system.
- a study that demonstrates, through research and empirical findings, that the county courthouse has continuing value as a magnet, as a hub, and as a pivotal asset to the growth and general well-being of any city center.

With base data recorded on an information retrieval system, there exists the possibility that the research staff of the Department of Architecture at The Pennsylvania State University could act as a continuing clearinghouse. As a clearinghouse for design and planning, data and information could be updated so that basic consultation services could be provided to serve the specific requests by those court officials and architects involved with the planning of courthouse facilities.

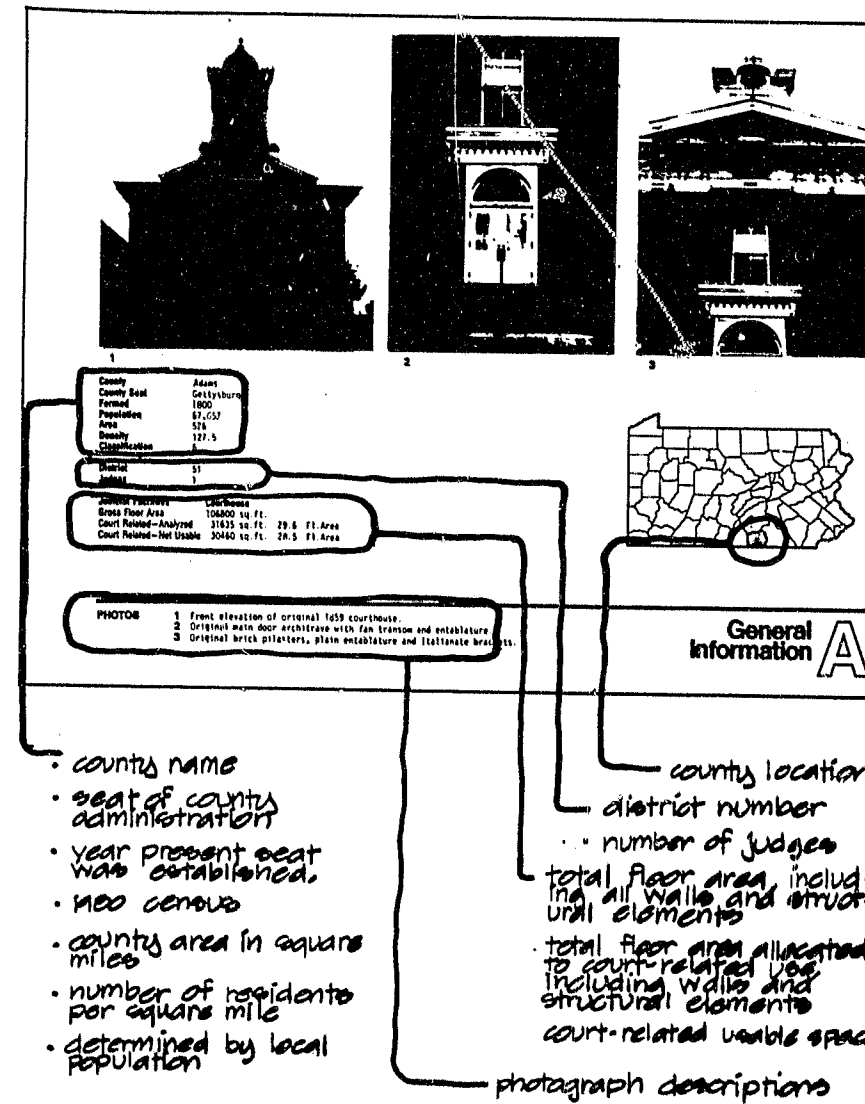
IX: READING THE COUNTY MONOGRAPH FORMAT

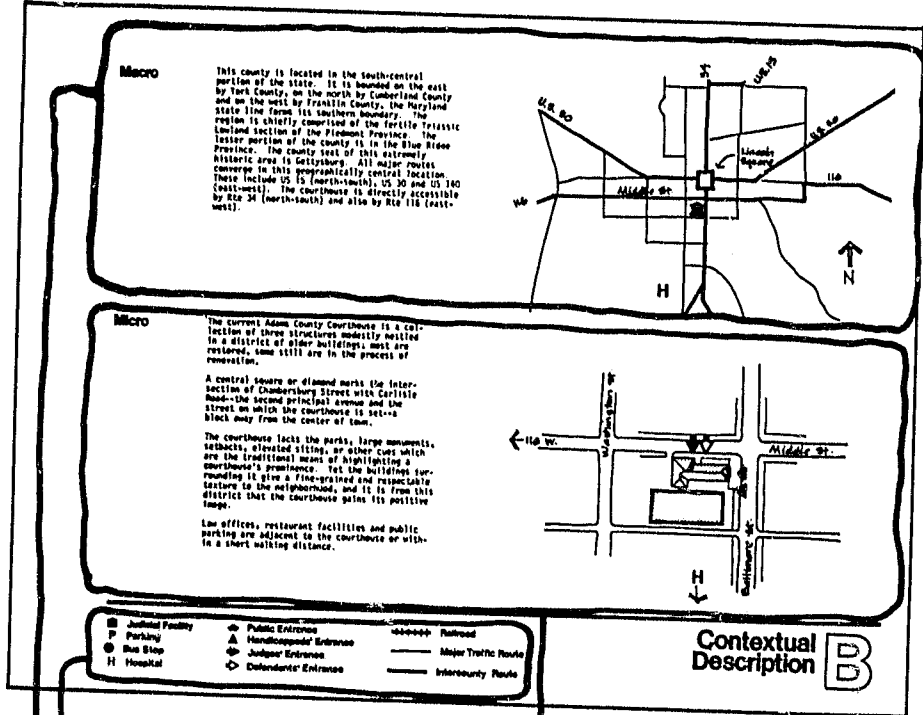
description

The separate MONOGRAPH for each of the sixty-seven (67) court facilities provides a close-up look that includes

- A - general information
- B - contextual description
- C - architectural description
- D1 - functional description, analysis & rating
- D2 - functional description, analysis & rating
- E - floor plans & functional allocations
- F - analysis, floor plans & functional allocations
- G - physical conditions
- H - existing allocations & needs
- I - problems & recommendations

A sample county page layout is illustrated on this and the next five pages. Descriptive notes and additional information are provided to clarify the charts and text on each page.

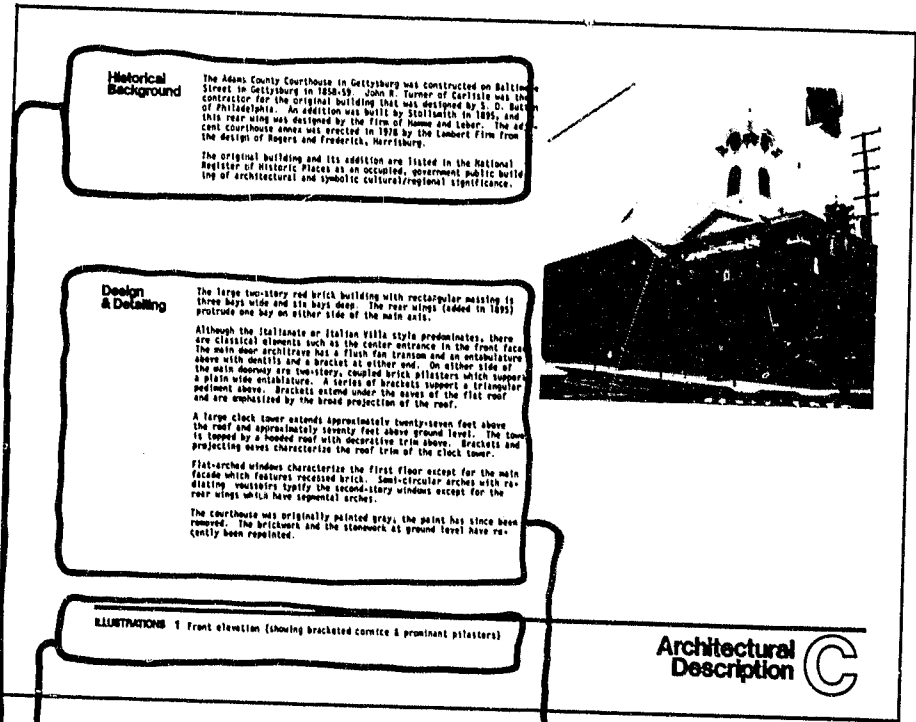




macro/micro map legend; bus stop and intercounty route shown in red

description of the immediate setting of the courthouse within the county seat.

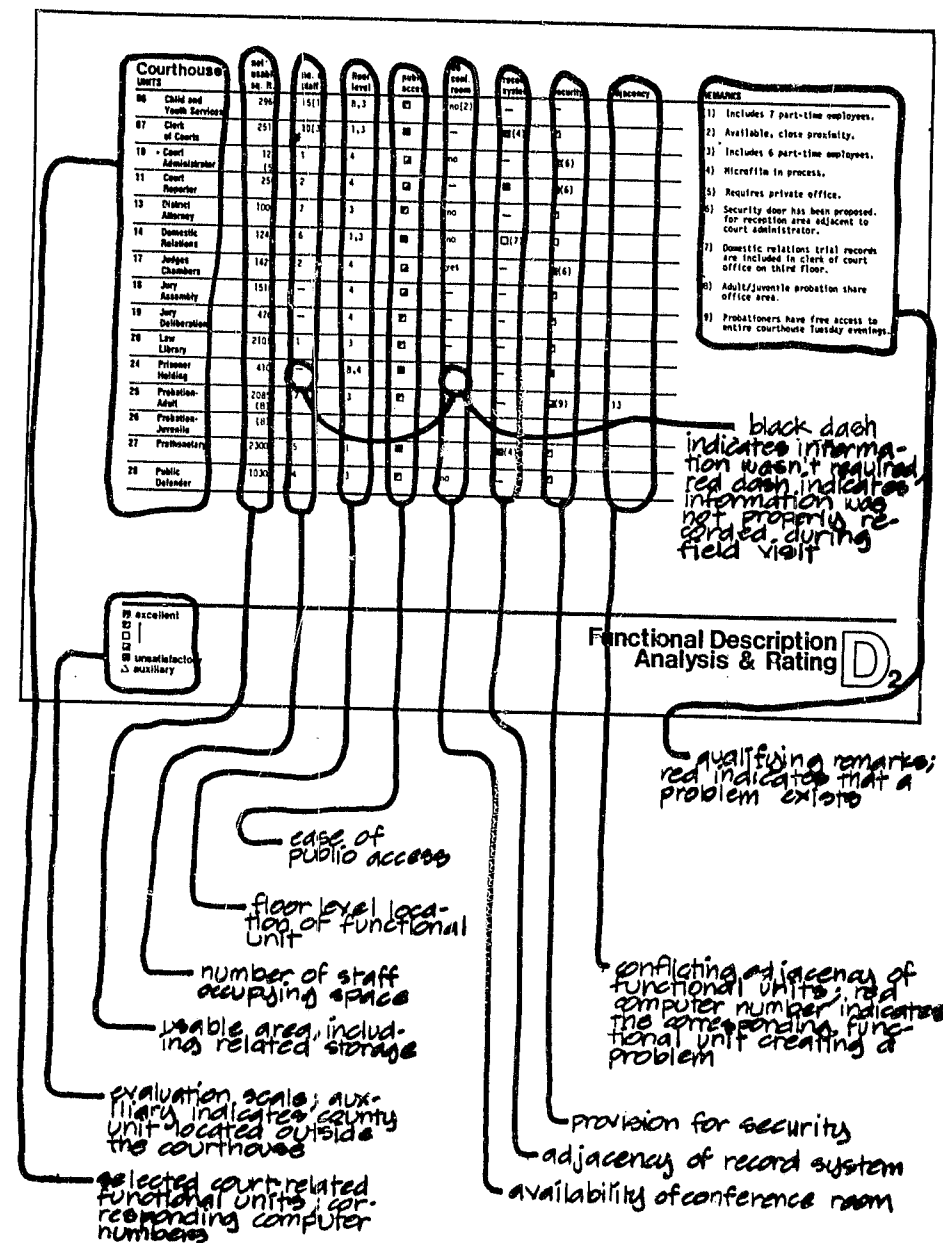
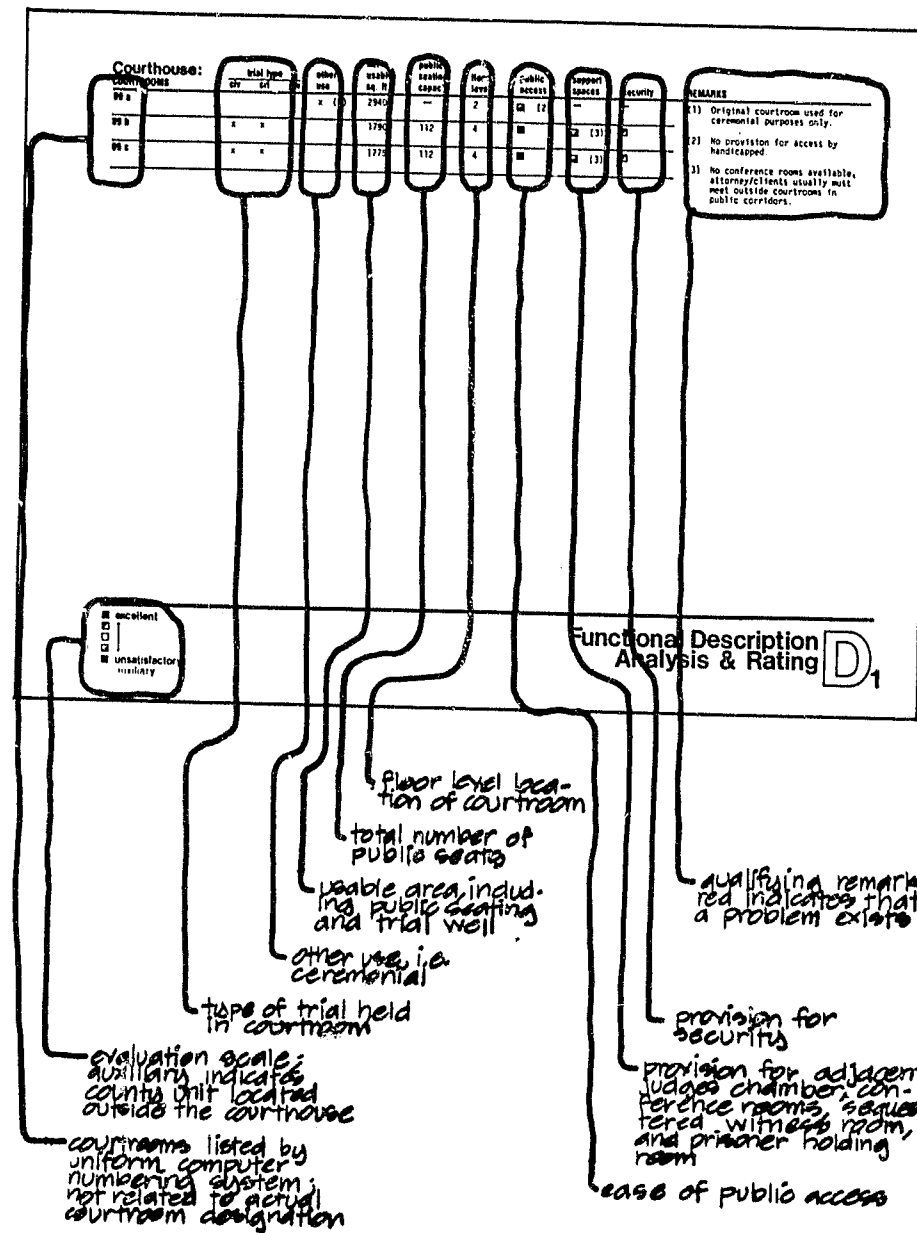
description of county, including major highways leading to the county seat

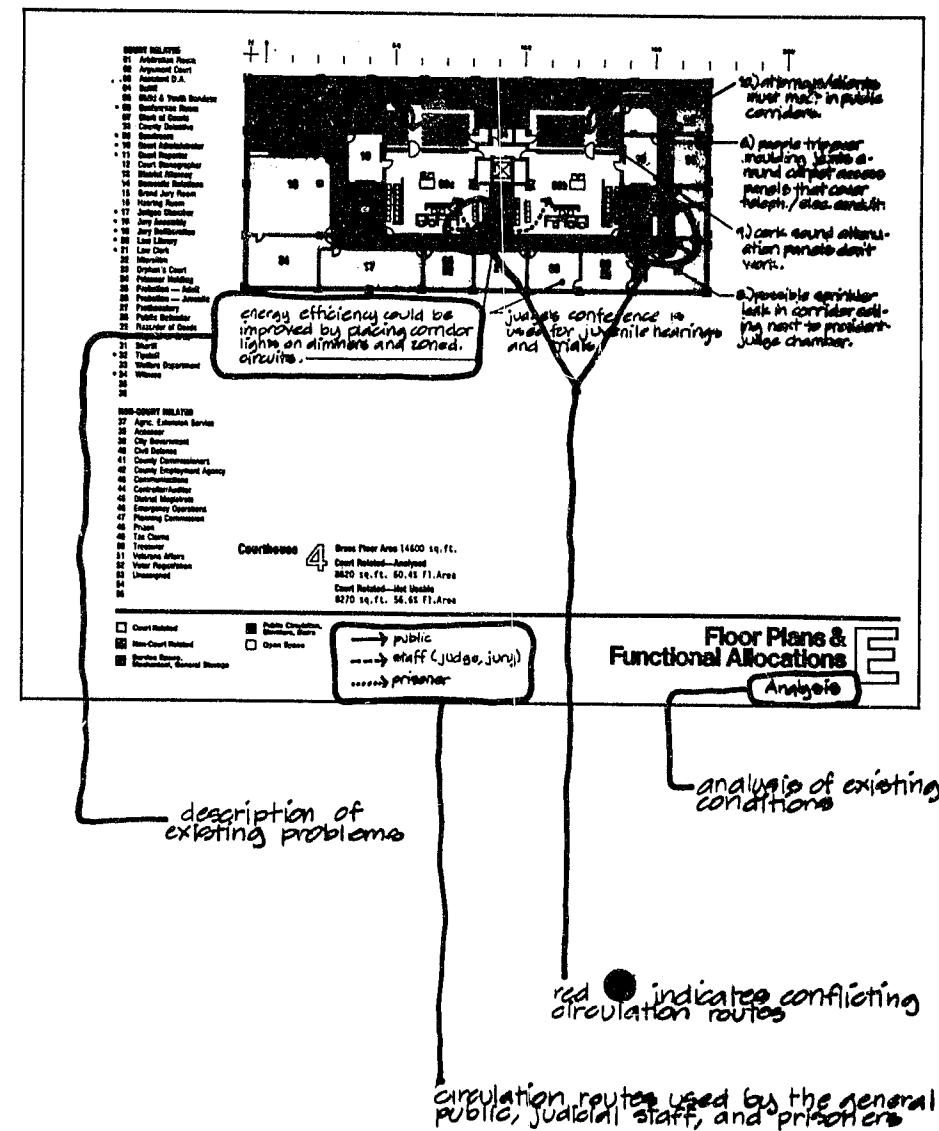
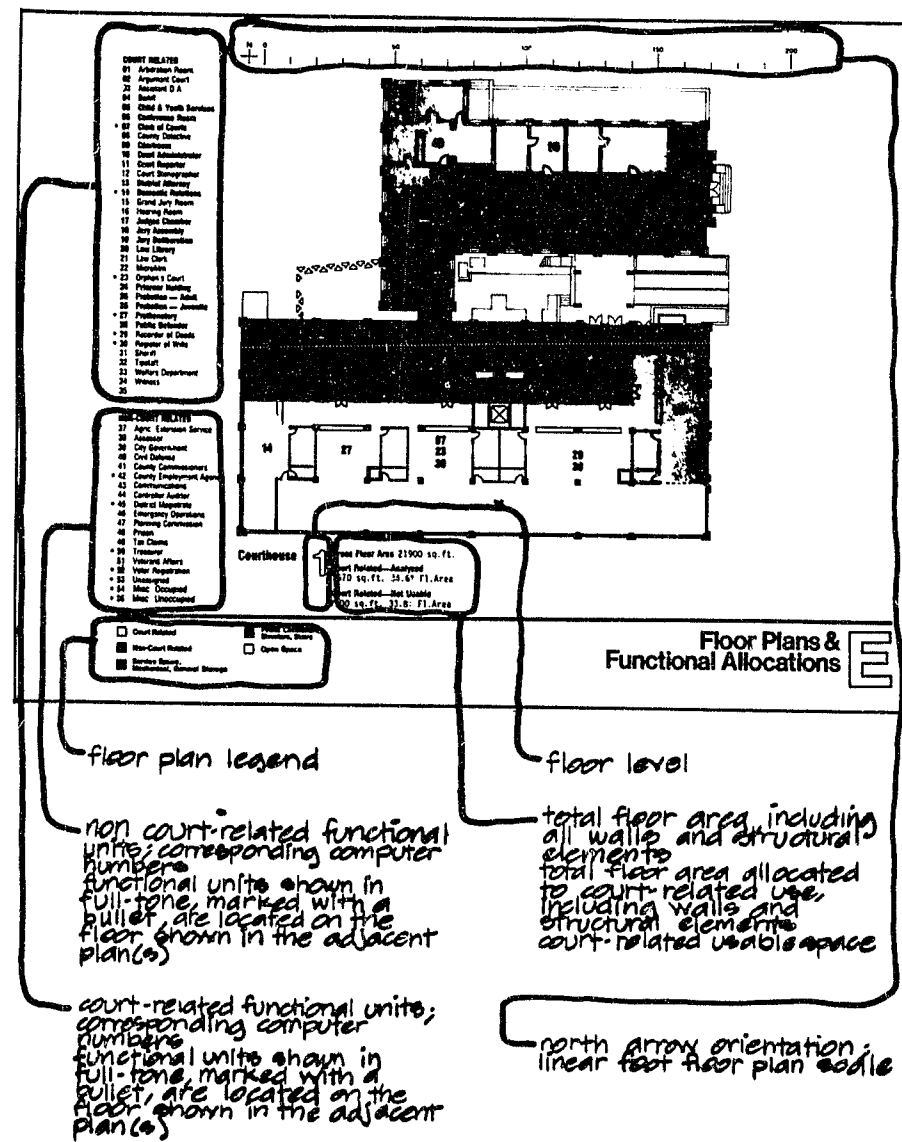


photograph description

historical background of courthouse, including construction dates, names of architect and/or builder, and historical status of courthouse

description of courthouse design style and detail features





Courthouse Category	Item	Condition	Evaluation	Remarks
01 site	visual identity	visible from approach road	■ (1)	121 courthouse prominence secondary to town square
02 architecture	parking	10 on-site parking assigned	■ (2)	
	landscaping walks bench	limited use/road paving detail	■ (3)	
	exterior interior details	no problems reported	■ (4)	
	exterior interior detail	fully entrance doors/broken windows	■ (5)	
	flooring	flooring hazardous some areas	■ (6)	
03 structural	roof walls foundation	no problems reported	■ (7)	
04 HVAC	heating cooling system	normal maintenance required	■ (8)	
	ventilation system	stuffy conditions reported - new courtroom	■ (9)	
05 plumbing	water waste system	normal maintenance required	■ (10)	
	public toilets fixtures	requires modification	■ (11)	
06 electrical	service panel grounding	requires modification	■ (12)	
	emergency lighting	none	■ (13)	
07 fire safety	building exits	original courthouse stairs not fire-rated	■ (14)	
	fire alarm system	conforming	■ (15)	
	fire extinguishers	none, though telephones for handicapped	■ (16)	
08 handicap	ramps entrances service	MODEL, revised signs on entrance ramp	■ (17)	
	signage coding for blind	none	■ (18)	
09 courtroom	lighting system	DMC MODEL, no obstructions	■ (19)	
	acoustic quality	DMC MODEL, variable test/area lighting	■ (20)	
	air quality	DMC MODEL, no refrigeration/cooling units	■ (21)	
	audio recording system	DMC MODEL, no problems reported	■ (22)	
	radio sound broadcast	DMC MODEL, no problems reported	■ (23)	
	radio detail	DMC MODEL, no problems reported	■ (24)	
	handicapped	DMC MODEL, no problems reported	■ (25)	
10 courtroom support	jury deliberation	DMC MODEL, no problems reported	■ (26)	
	judge attorney conference	DMC MODEL, no problems reported	■ (27)	
11 offices	court related	DMC MODEL, no problems reported	■ (28)	
12 detention	holding cells	DMC MODEL, no problems reported	■ (29)	
	prisoner elevators	DMC MODEL, no problems reported	■ (30)	
13 circulation	reception entrance lobby	DMC MODEL, no problems reported	■ (31)	
	public services signage	DMC MODEL, no problems reported	■ (32)	
	public information system	DMC MODEL, no problems reported	■ (33)	
	passenger elevator	DMC MODEL, no problems reported	■ (34)	
14 auxiliary facilities				

■ excellent
□ average
■ unsatisfactory

evaluation goals
fourteen categories selected for evaluation; corresponding computer numbers

selected items among the most important in a category

qualifying remarks; red indicates that a problem exists. If corrective measures have begun the remark appears in black

evaluation of corresponding item

qualitative description of condition

Physical Conditions F

Courthouse Unit	EXISTING ALLOCATIONS			AVERAGE FOR CLASS & COUNTIES			CONFORMANCE TO CLASS & AVERAGE		
	analyzed area	net usable area	sq. ft.	analyzed area	net usable area	sq. ft.	analyzed area	net usable area	sq. ft.
08 Child and Youth Services	3132	2962	11.5	3132	2927	10.5	■	■	■
09 Court of Appeals	2555	2515	9	2555	2515	9	■	■	■
10 Courtrooms	6545	6365	22	6545	6365	22	■	■	■
11 Court Administration	255	250	1	255	249	1.5	■	■	■
12 Court Reporter	352	250	2	352	253	1.5	■	■	■
13 District Attorney	1000	1000	7	1000	1000	7	■	■	■
14 Domestic Relations	1285	1245	6	1285	1245	6	■	■	■
15 Judges Chambers	1455	1425	2	1455	1425	2	■	■	■
16 Jury Assembly	1590	1510	5	1590	1510	5	■	■	■
17 Jury Deliberation	660	670	2	660	670	2	■	■	■
18 Law Library	2105	205	1	2105	205	1	■	■	■
19 Prisoner Housing	410	410	1	410	410	1	■	■	■
20 Probation Adult	1130*	1043*	3.5	1130*	1043*	3.5	■	■	■
21 Probation Juvenile	1130*	1043*	3.5	1130*	1043*	3.5	■	■	■
22 Probationary	2345	2300	5	2345	2300	5	■	■	■
23 Public Defender	1030	1030	4	1030	1030	4	■	■	■

■ above average
□ average
■ below average

evaluation symbols
existing square foot space allocation for each functional unit

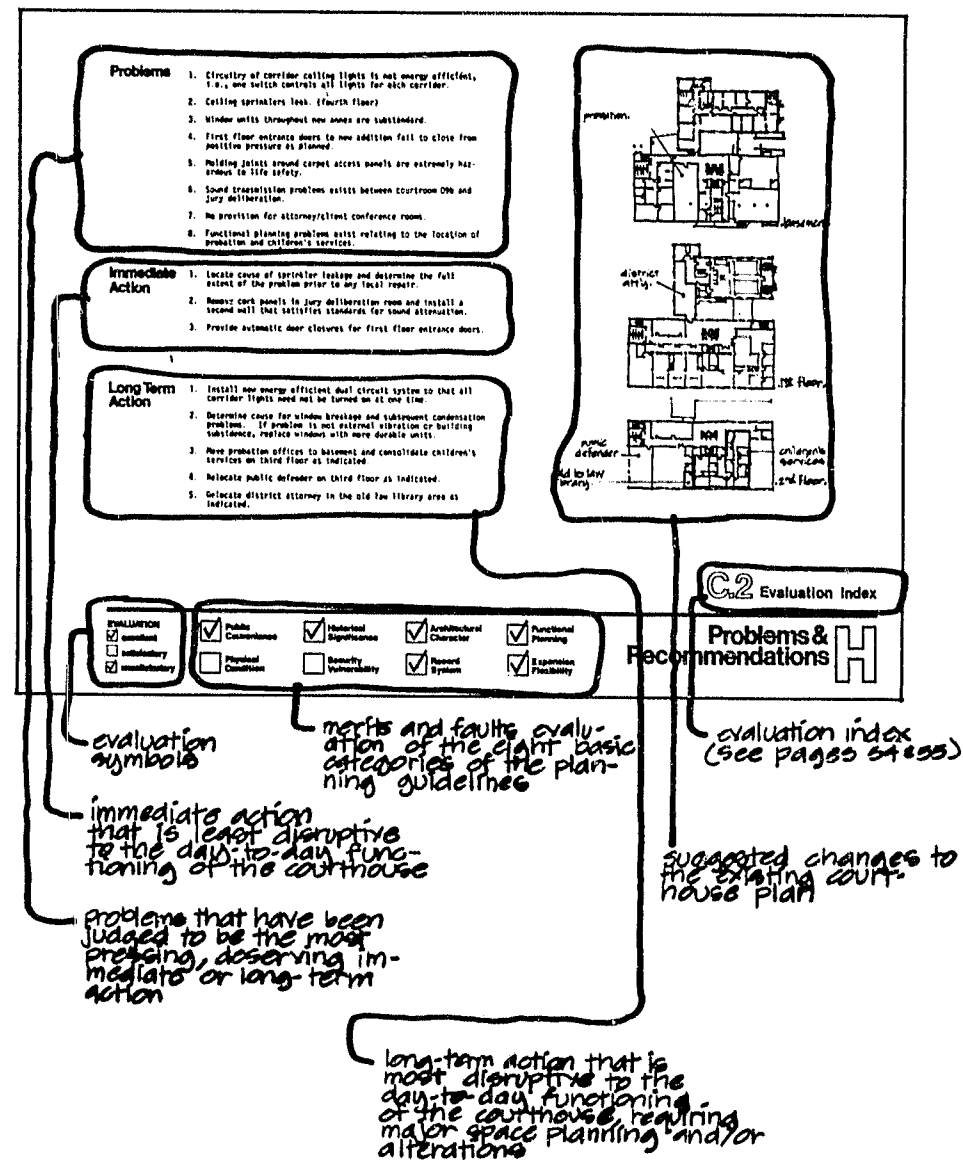
average square foot space allocation for all counties grouped within the county class

selected court-related functional units; corresponding computer numbers

Existing Allocations & Needs G

list of counties grouped within the county class; the county evaluated appears in full-tone

conformance to average square foot space allocation for all counties grouped within the county class



Adams County	U.I.C. 82-418	Arkansas County	U.I.C. 82-434	Free County	U.I.C. 82-456	Lawrence County	U.I.C. 82-446	Southumberland County	U.I.C. 82-469	Verdugo County	U.I.C. 82-479
Alameda County	U.I.C. 82-419	Butte County	U.I.C. 82-435	Frederick County	U.I.C. 82-457	Lebanon County	U.I.C. 82-449	Union County	U.I.C. 82-471	Washoe County	U.I.C. 82-473
Alameda County	U.I.C. 82-420	Chico & County	U.I.C. 82-436	Garfield County	U.I.C. 82-458	Lehigh County	U.I.C. 82-450	Washington County	U.I.C. 82-472	Washington County	U.I.C. 82-474
Alameda County	U.I.C. 82-421	Colusa County	U.I.C. 82-437	Humboldt County	U.I.C. 82-459	Lincoln County	U.I.C. 82-451	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-473	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-475
Alameda County	U.I.C. 82-422	Colusa County	U.I.C. 82-438	Imperial County	U.I.C. 82-460	Lodi County	U.I.C. 82-452	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-474	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-476
Alameda County	U.I.C. 82-423	Colusa County	U.I.C. 82-439	Jefferson County	U.I.C. 82-461	Madison County	U.I.C. 82-453	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-475	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-477
Alameda County	U.I.C. 82-424	Colusa County	U.I.C. 82-440	Jefferson County	U.I.C. 82-462	Marion County	U.I.C. 82-454	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-476	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-478
Alameda County	U.I.C. 82-425	Colusa County	U.I.C. 82-441	Jefferson County	U.I.C. 82-463	Marion County	U.I.C. 82-455	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-477	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-479
Alameda County	U.I.C. 82-426	Colusa County	U.I.C. 82-442	Jefferson County	U.I.C. 82-464	Marion County	U.I.C. 82-456	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-478	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-480
Alameda County	U.I.C. 82-427	Colusa County	U.I.C. 82-443	Jefferson County	U.I.C. 82-465	Marion County	U.I.C. 82-457	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-479	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-481
Alameda County	U.I.C. 82-428	Colusa County	U.I.C. 82-444	Jefferson County	U.I.C. 82-466	Marion County	U.I.C. 82-458	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-480	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-482
Alameda County	U.I.C. 82-429	Colusa County	U.I.C. 82-445	Jefferson County	U.I.C. 82-467	Marion County	U.I.C. 82-459	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-481	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-483
Alameda County	U.I.C. 82-430	Colusa County	U.I.C. 82-446	Jefferson County	U.I.C. 82-468	Marion County	U.I.C. 82-460	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-482	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-484
Alameda County	U.I.C. 82-431	Colusa County	U.I.C. 82-447	Jefferson County	U.I.C. 82-469	Marion County	U.I.C. 82-461	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-483	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-485
Alameda County	U.I.C. 82-432	Colusa County	U.I.C. 82-448	Jefferson County	U.I.C. 82-470	Marion County	U.I.C. 82-462	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-484	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-486
Alameda County	U.I.C. 82-433	Colusa County	U.I.C. 82-449	Jefferson County	U.I.C. 82-471	Marion County	U.I.C. 82-463	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-485	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-487
Alameda County	U.I.C. 82-434	Colusa County	U.I.C. 82-450	Jefferson County	U.I.C. 82-472	Marion County	U.I.C. 82-464	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-486	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-488
Alameda County	U.I.C. 82-435	Colusa County	U.I.C. 82-451	Jefferson County	U.I.C. 82-473	Marion County	U.I.C. 82-465	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-487	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-489
Alameda County	U.I.C. 82-436	Colusa County	U.I.C. 82-452	Jefferson County	U.I.C. 82-474	Marion County	U.I.C. 82-466	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-488	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-490
Alameda County	U.I.C. 82-437	Colusa County	U.I.C. 82-453	Jefferson County	U.I.C. 82-475	Marion County	U.I.C. 82-467	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-489	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-491
Alameda County	U.I.C. 82-438	Colusa County	U.I.C. 82-454	Jefferson County	U.I.C. 82-476	Marion County	U.I.C. 82-468	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-490	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-492
Alameda County	U.I.C. 82-439	Colusa County	U.I.C. 82-455	Jefferson County	U.I.C. 82-477	Marion County	U.I.C. 82-469	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-491	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-493
Alameda County	U.I.C. 82-440	Colusa County	U.I.C. 82-456	Jefferson County	U.I.C. 82-478	Marion County	U.I.C. 82-470	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-492	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-494
Alameda County	U.I.C. 82-441	Colusa County	U.I.C. 82-457	Jefferson County	U.I.C. 82-479	Marion County	U.I.C. 82-471	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-493	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-495
Alameda County	U.I.C. 82-442	Colusa County	U.I.C. 82-458	Jefferson County	U.I.C. 82-480	Marion County	U.I.C. 82-472	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-494	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-496
Alameda County	U.I.C. 82-443	Colusa County	U.I.C. 82-459	Jefferson County	U.I.C. 82-481	Marion County	U.I.C. 82-473	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-495	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-497
Alameda County	U.I.C. 82-444	Colusa County	U.I.C. 82-460	Jefferson County	U.I.C. 82-482	Marion County	U.I.C. 82-474	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-496	Yuba County	U.I.C. 82-498
Alameda County	U.I.C. 82-445	Colusa County									

END