

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Original specifications confirm that the East Feliciana Parish Courthouse is minimally altered from its appearance as completed in 1840. Centered in the public square, it is a two-story brick building, 55' x 55', surrounded by a Doric colonnade. Masonry walls and columns are plastered and painted white. A domed, octagonal cupola on a broad, square base surmounts a hip roof symmetrically pierced by four chimneys. The fenestration pattern is very regular with blind openings at stairs where windows were not wanted on the interior. First floor windows have plain batten shutters on the original strap hinges. Second floor doors centered in the north and south facades open to iron-railed balconies.

The five buildings comprising Lawyers' Row face the Courthouse across Woodville Street on the north side of the public square. All are, like the Courthouse, Greek Revival in style and painted white. Dating from the 1840s, the two brick offices at the east end of the row and the frame buildings at the west end of the row are alike in having tetra-style porticos averaging 20' in width. The other two buildings each have seven columns under level cornices. Their width permits two front entrances indicating that each was built for duplex law office occupancy. The one on the left is the newer, having been built in 1860. It is distinguished by slim cast-iron columns with Corinthian capitals and a segmentally-arched architrave. This building is now used as a library.

Although no intrusions spoil the integrity of Lawyers' Row, a recent red brick Masonic Building of no distinction terminates the composition on the east corner of the block. At the west end, a modest nineteenth-century residence of harmonious materials and proportions is set back on a landscaped lawn. On the public square a new Police Jury Building has been built to the west of the Courthouse on a site historically occupied by a building of similar small size.

The Courthouse was designed by J. S. Savage and built by Lafayette Saunders, who resigned as a member of the East Feliciana Parish Police Jury when his construction bid of \$23,000 was accepted.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A full peripteral Greek Revival Courthouse opposite five adjacent law office buildings of harmonious design form an ensemble unique when new and more remarkable for having survived intact. The East Feliciana Parish Courthouse and three of the law offices continue in their original functions, a further tribute to their design and relationship which has served well for more than 130 years.