

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM

Type of Memorial (check all applicable)

Monument with Sculpture without Sculpture with Cannon standalone Cannon
 Historical Marker Plaque Other (flag pole, G.A.R. buildings, stained glass windows, etc.)

Affiliation

GAR MOLLUS SUVCW WRC ASUVCW
 LGAR DUVCW Other

If known, record name and number of post, camp, corps, auxiliary, tent, circle or appropriate information of other groups:

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

Original Dedication Date post 2000 Please consult any/all newspaper archives for a local paper's article that would have information on the *first* dedication ceremony and/or other facts on the memorial. Please submit a copy of your findings with full identification of the paper & date of publication. Thank you.

Location

The Memorial is *currently* located at:

Street/Road address or site location 355 Court St

GPS Coordinates N37° 08'20.669" W88°24' 14.010

City/Village &/or Township Smithland

County Livingstone State KY Zip Code 42081

The front of the Memorial faces: North South East West

Government Body, Agency, or Individual Owner

Name Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

Dept./Div. _____

Street Address 200 Mero St

City Frankfort State KY Zip Code 40622

Contact Person _____ Telephone (502) 564-4890 ext _____

Is Memorial on the National Register of Historic Places Yes No ID # if known _____

For Monuments with/without sculpture:

Physical Details

Material of Monument or base under a Sculpture or Cannon = Stone Concrete Metal Other

If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) _____

Material of the Sculpture Stone Concrete Metal Other Is it hollow or solid? _____

If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) _____

Environmental Setting

(The general vicinity and immediate locale surrounding a memorial can play a major role in its overall condition.)

Type of Location

Cemetery Park Plaza/Courtyard "Town Square" Post Office
 School Municipal Building State Capitol Courthouse College Campus
 Traffic Circle Library Other: _____

General Vicinity

Rural (low population, open land) Suburban (residential, near city) Town Urban / Metropolitan

Immediate Locale (check as many as may apply)

Industrial Commercial Street/Roadside within 20 feet Tree Covered (overhanging branches)
 Protected from the elements (canopy or enclosure, indoors) Protected from the public (fence or other barrier)

Any other significant environmental factor Humidity from Ohio Ricer nearby could be a factor

[To detail the condition of a monument used the addendum form for *Monument's Condition*]

Supplemental Background Information

In addition to your on-site survey, any additional information you can provide on the described Memorial will be welcomed. Please label each account with its source (author, title, publisher, date, pages). Topics include any reference to the points listed on this questionnaire, plus any previous conservation treatments - or efforts to raise money for treatment.

Addendums attached to this electronic file are the *Monument's Condition* and the *Narrative* forms. Only the *Monument's Condition* form is required if you are requesting grant money using form CWM-62 *SUVCW Memorial Grant Application Form and Instructions*.

Thank you.

Inspector Identification

Date of On-site Survey 13 Sep 2020Your Name Walt BuschAddress 1240 Konert Valley DrCity FentonState MOZip Code 63026

Telephone () _____

E-Mail _____

Are you a member of the Allied Orders of the G.A.R.? If so, which one?

US Grant Camp 68 MO SUVCW

Please send this completed form to:

Walt Busch, PDC, Chair
1240 Konert Valley Dr.
Fenton, MO 63026

Thank you for your help, and attention to detail.

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR – CIVIL WAR MEMORIALS COMMITTEE.

Historical Marker

Livingstone County Courthouse

355 Court St, Smithland KY 42081

$N37^{\circ}08'20.669$ $W88^{\circ}24'14.010$

9-13-2020



KENTUCKY
OHIO RIVER CIVIL WAR
HERITAGE TRAIL

Livingston County Courthouse

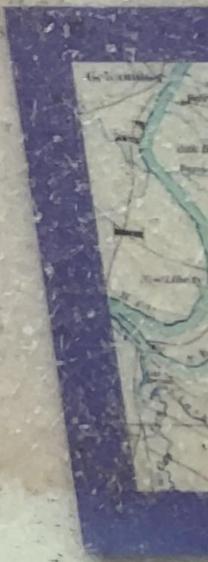
When Crittenden County was separated from Livingston County in 1842 the county seat for Livingston County was moved to Smithland from Salem. Planning and construction for this courthouse began that same year. The county court appointed a five member commission to plan the building and let the contract. The commissioners were David Fort, L.W. Alcorn, Blount Hodge, William Gordon, and Isaac Shelby, none of whom were serving on the court. The original plan was for a building 50 feet by 40 feet with a foundation of "good large stones" below ground and dressed limestone above. The building's walls were to be of "good mercantile brick," two bricks, or 18 inches, thick. The first floor was sixteen feet high, the second twelve. There were five fireplaces and flues and cedar shingles. It was a large and imposing building for its time. While the courthouse was under construction the various county courts met in local churches, the Gower House, and the Dallam Bush House. The first court session was held in the courthouse in October 1844 before the structure was completed. Construction was completed nearly a year later in August 1845. By 1852 the prosperity and growth of the county created a need for a separate building to house the circuit court and county clerks' offices and records. During the depression of the 1930s there were plans for a new courthouse that never came to fruition. In 1935 one of the last legal hangings in Kentucky took place in the courtyard behind the courthouse. During World War II an iron fence that had been erected around the public square in the 1850s was donated to a scrap metal drive. In the 1960s four rooms were added, two on each floor, as well as gas heat and air conditioning. The courthouse has served as a community center and focal point throughout its long history.



Union General Ulysses Simpson Grant order Union Troops to occupy Smithland early in September 1861

When large numbers of Federal forces occupied Smithland as a headquarters building during the Union occupation of Smithland from September 1861 to 1862, various local courts were held in private homes. One of the few courthouses in far western Kentucky that was not destroyed by fire at another time, it remains a part of the history of the region when the town was occupied.

The Livingston County Courthouse is



Map of Smithland and the surrounding area

Livingston County Courthouse



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When large numbers of Federal forces occupied Smithland, the courthouse was used by Union officers as a headquarters building and for other purposes at various times during the occupation of Smithland from September 1861 through July 1865. During the War years various local courts were held in private residences and the court clerks' office building. As one of the few courthouses in far western Kentucky not burned during the Civil War or destroyed by fire at another time, it remains a visible and tangible link to an earlier period in the history of the region when the towns along the rivers were centers of trade and commerce.

The Livingston County Courthouse is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Map of Smithland and the surrounding area from *The Official Military Atlas of the Civil War*



Livingston County Courthouse



When Crittenden County was separated from Livingston County in 1842 the county seat for Livingston County was moved to Smithland from Salem. Planning and construction for this courthouse began that same year. The county court appointed a five member commission to plan the building and let the contract. The commissioners were David Fort, L.W. Alcorn, Eliant, Hodge, William Cox, Jan, and Isaac Shelby, none of whom were serving on the court. The original plan was for a building 30 feet by 40 feet with a foundation of "good large stones" below ground and dressed limestone above. The building's walls were to be of "good mercantile brick," two bricks, or 18 inches, thick. The first floor was sixteen feet high, the second twelve. There were five fireplaces and flues and cedar shingles. It was a large and imposing building for its time. While the courthouse was under construction the various county courts met in local churches, the Gower House, and the Dollan Bush House. The first court session was held in the courthouse in October 1844 before the structure was completed. Construction was completed nearly a year later in August 1845. By 1852 the prosperity and growth of the county created a need for a separate building to house the circuit court and county clerks' offices and records. During the depression of the 1930s there were plans for a new courthouse that never came to fruition. In 1935 one of the last legal hangings in Kentucky took place in the courtyard behind the courthouse. During World War II an iron fence that had been erected around the public square in the 1850s was donated to a scrap metal drive. In the 1960s four rooms were added, two on each floor, as well as gas heat and air conditioning. The courthouse has served as a community center and focal point throughout its long history.



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Interpretive Signs Developed by
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Murray State University

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