

Historical Sketch

The first circuit court of the county met at the home of Daniel McGary on June 22, 1807 (1), and was presided over by Judge Henry Broadnax from Virginia. "A gentleman of the old school," Judge Broadnax always appeared in court dressed in short white cashmere breeches, large silver knee buckles, white cotton stockings, and a long white dimity coat. He wore his hair powdered and tied behind with a ribbon. (2)

Public Buildings

When the organization of the county court had been completed and the government was ready to function, the interest of the county centered about public buildings. The location of a county seat and the erection of a courthouse and a jail were matters for early consideration. The only point specified by the act of creation regarding the site for the seat of justice was that it be located as [near the center of the county as possible. (3) At the first session of the court, Daniel McGary and Solomon Silkwood presented an agreement to donate a site for the new buildings provided that, after a town had been laid off, they would be allowed to divide into lots 40 acres across the street from the site of the courthouse. Their proposition was accepted, and James Davis, Thomas Anderson, and Abraham Landers were named to draft plans for a courthouse and a jail. (4) The plans submitted by the committee named above specified a courthouse of "good hewn logs, seven inches thick, twenty feet square, eighteen feet high, with a jointed shingle roof nailed on, a partition of plank above, two below, a plank floor above and below, one pair of stairs, two outside doors below, and a door in the partition

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1. Minutes Circuit Court, 1807-11, vol. unlabeled, p. 1, see entry 164.
 2. Gordon, October 22, 1931.
 3. Littell, 1806, III, 346.
 4. Orders County Court, vol. 1-A, p. 3, see entry 238.