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Built around 1830, the Caroline County court House in Bowling Green is a brick two-story temple-form building, in Thomas Jefferson's Roman Revival style. The walls are finely laid in Flemish bond on the front and sides. The rear wall is laid in common bond and is partially covered over by a later addition. Due to the deterioration of the brick, the courses below the window sills were covered with cement in the 1930's. The building is surrounded by a Tuscan entablature with a Tuscan pediment at either end. The front pediment's tympanum is plastered and features a semi-circular window in the center. The fourbay facade becomes an open arcade one-bay deep on the ground floor with six rounded arches. The arches have white keystones and a springline marked by two courses of corbelled brick. Under the arcade two doorways with original architrave trim, transoms and double diamond panel doors lead into the courtroom. m All the windows retain the original architrave trim, sashes -six-over-nine on the second floor and nine-over-nine on the first-m and louvered shutters. Most of the second floor openings are fitted with permanently closed shutters. Although the square lattice belfry with a pyramidal roof is a later addition, it does znot detract from the appearance of the original building. A brickcomplex added to the rear was completed in 1970. -

The interior of the court house lost most of its original woodwork and furnishings as a result of several alterations, 0 however the gallery with its supporting columns, and the trim in the two second floor jury rooms remain. The interior was extensively renovated $\dot{\mathbf{q}}$ n 1969-70, and refurnished in a style more in keeping with the style of the building. The gallery Ö stairs were returned to their original positions, and the z ceiling was raised to its original height. A brick tile floor 5 was substituted for the former one of linoleum tile. Because of a new rear addition the three windows across the rear wall were blocked up.

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Pre-Columbian 15th Century	16th Century 17th Century	[] 18th Century (x) 19th Century	20th Century
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group of early nineteenth century Virginia court houses, whose designs were inspired by the work of Thomas Jefferson. Not only does the building incorporate elements of Roman architecture, but certain features are taken directly from known works of Jefferson. This is particularly evident in the arcade which employs similar proportions as those on the Ranges at the University of Virginia. The use of the arcade is an interesting continuation of a traditional feature of Virginia's public buildings. It should also be noted that a gable-end facade with an arcade on the ground level was a common feature of the Renaissance town hall in England. The town hall of Blandford, Dorset is a good example of this, and bears distinct similarities with the group of court houses represented by Caroline.

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Because of the destruction of the Caroline County records the builder and construction date of the court house is unknown, but it is possible that some of Caroline's builders were professionals who had worked for Jefferson at the University. Indeed, the building's strong resemblance to the Madison County Court House, (erected 1828-30) suggests that Madison's builder, William B. Phillips, was involved with the construction of Caroline. Phillips is known also to have worked on the buildings of the University of Virginia. Were Phillips responsible for the building of Caroline, it follows that Caroline has a construction date near that of Madison. Such a date is borne out by the fact that Caroline's former court house is believed to have burned around 1830.

Caroline County, formed in 1727 from the upper parts of Essex, King and Queen, and King William counties, was named for Queen Caroline, wife of George II. The present building is believed to be the sixth court house to serve the county.

G.H.

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Virginia county

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

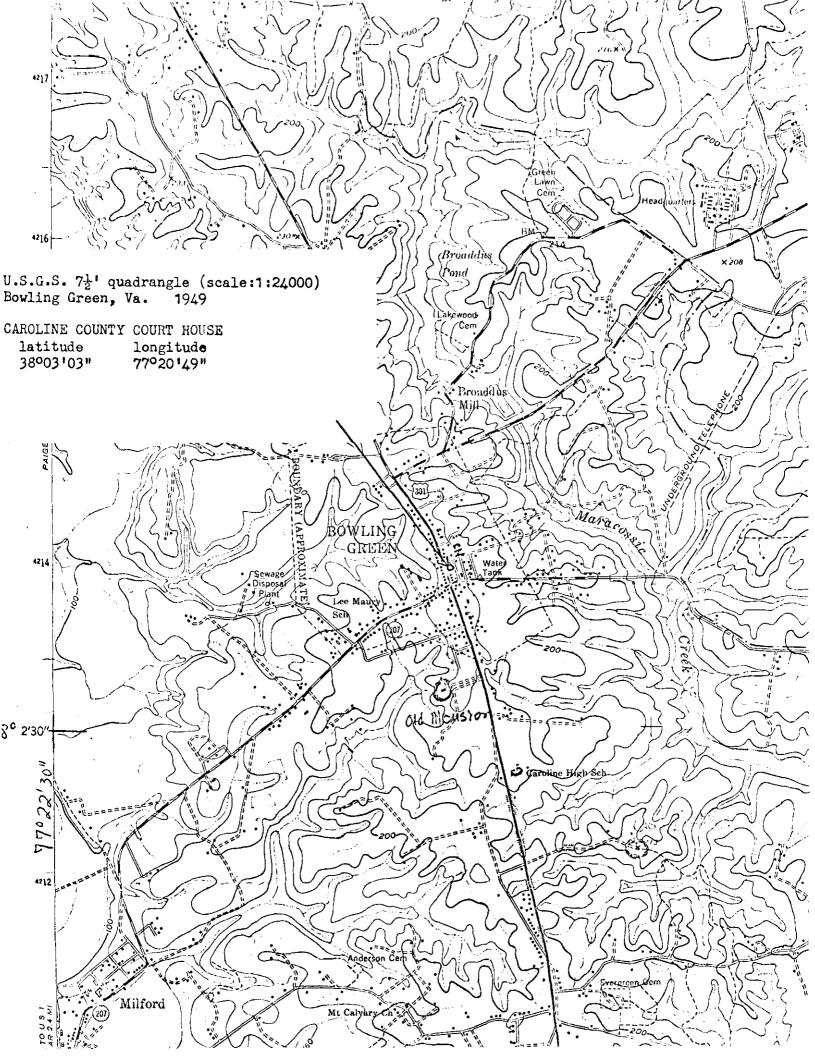
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