

# The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

NO. 33

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11 a.m.-4 p.m.

## PHOTOGRAPHS OF COUNTY COURTHOUSES AT MODERN MUSEUM

COURTHOUSE, an exhibition of 64 photographs drawn from "one of the most original, intelligent and useful architectural documentations of recent years," sponsored by Joseph E. Seagram & Sons, Inc. as a contribution to the Bicentennial, will be on view in the Steichen Galleries of The Museum of Modern Art from April 12 through July 10. These photographs of county courthouses from all regions of the nation have been selected by John Szarkowski, Director of the Department of Photography, from the more than 8,000 photographs commissioned by Seagrams from 24 photographers. The exhibition is being presented as a "selective fragment" of the total archive. In all, nearly 1,000 courthouses, specially chosen for their architectural and/or historical interest and representing a little less than one third of the counties in the continental United States, have been documented in the project, directed by Phyllis Lambert with Richard Pare as general editor.

Initiated in 1974, the courthouse project was conceived as a pictorial record of buildings that are unique expressions of American society and architecture. As John Szarkowski notes, "The subject of the document--the county courthouse in the United States--is both ambitious and coherent, and exemplary of the social and artistic history of this country." From the spare elegance of the Chester County, South Carolina, to the great courthouse fortress of Hennepin County (Minneapolis), Minnesota, the photographs in the show reveal the county courthouse to have served in America much as churches and palaces have in Europe: the physical embodiment of community values and their authority. In assembling the archive of material from which the exhibition is drawn, the intention was to represent the entire spectrum of existing courthouses of all periods and styles.

Among the 13 photographers represented in this exhibition are Pirkle Jones,

(more)

Nicholas Nixon, Tod Papageorge, Stephen Shore, and Geoff Winningham, among others. The only restriction on the photographers was that all work be done with a view camera to ensure high-quality, finely detailed images. For some of the photographers this assignment provided the first occasion to use the view camera. The photographers travelled the nation between September 1974 and April 1975 along designated routes, photographing certain assigned court-houses as well as any others that caught their interest. Speaking of the artistic issues that faced them, and, indeed, the problem that arises in architectural photography in general Mr. Szarkowski notes: "A photograph of a building is neither a replica nor a model, but the translation of an idea from an architectural to a pictorial form. It is, inevitably, a critical act, recording not only the building itself, but the photographer's understanding of it, and of his own medium's capacity to describe it. Like other varieties of photographs, it is made, not born."

"The highly selective fragment of the total Seagram's project that is shown here can only suggest the scope of the total archive as a resource for the study of American building and social values. It can perhaps indicate something of the intelligence, skill, sensibility, and independence with which a group of superior photographers, mostly young, used their own art to describe in translation the radically different arts of architecture, building, and government."

Later this year an expanded version of the exhibition will tour nationally, under the auspices of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

THE PHOTOGRAPHERS IN THE MUSEUM EXHIBITION ARE:

Doug Baz  
Caldecotte Chubb  
William Clift  
Jim Dow  
Frank Gohlke

Pirkle Jones  
Lewis Kostiner  
Nicholas Nixon  
Richard Pare

Tod Papageorge  
Stephen Shore  
Bob Thall  
Geoff Winningham

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Additional information available from Michael Boodro, Assistant, or Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, New York 10019. Tel. 956-7296; 7501.

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## COURTHOUSE

April 12 - July 10, 1977

## CHECKLIST

### HAROLD ALLEN

- 1. 1977.359 Stark County, Toulon, Ill.  
1856; Architect unknown

### DOUGLAS BAZ

- 2. 1977.284 Grand Isle County, North Hero, Vt.  
1824-25; Joseph M. Mott (?), Architect
- 3. 1977.319 Grafton County, North Haverhill, N.H.  
1971; Kenneth Di Nesco of E. Verner Johnson - Robert  
N. Hotvedt & Associates, Inc., Architects

### CALDECOT CHUBB

- 4. 1977.313 Edgefield County, Edgefield, S.C.  
1838-39; Robert Mills (?), Architect

### WILLIAM CLIFT

- 5. 1977.275 St. Louis County, St. Louis, Mo.  
1839-62; Henry Singleton, Robert S. Mitchell, Thomas  
D.P. Lanham, William Rumbold, Architects
- 6. 1977.289 Tuscarawas County, New Philadelphia, Ohio  
1882-85; Thomas Boyd, Architect
- 7. 1977.294 Allegheny County, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
1884-88; H. H. Richardson, Architect
- 8. 1977.311 Warren County, Warrenton, Mo.  
1869-71; Thomas W. Brady, Architect
- 9. 1977.316 Miami County, Troy, Ohio  
1885-88; J.W. Yost, Architect

### JIM DOW

- 10. 1977.295 Newberry County, Newberry, S.C.  
1849-53; Jacob Graves, Architect
- 11. 1977.318 Macon County, Tuskegee, Ala.  
1905; J. W. Golucke & Co., Architects
- 12. 1977.345 Grady County, Cairo, Ga.  
1908-09; Alexander Blair, Architect

JIM DOW cont'd.

13. 1977.348 Pike County, Zebulon, Ga.  
1896; Goluck & Stewart, Architects
14. 1977.349 Chester County, Chester, S.C.  
c. 1850; Architect unknown
15. 1977.350 Charleston County, Charleston, S. C.  
1789-92; William Drayton, Architect
16. 1977.351 Pickens County, Carrollton, Ala.  
1877-78; Architect unknown
17. 1977.353 Georgetown County, Georgetown, S.C.  
1824; Robert Mills (?), Architect
18. 1977.354 Tate County, Senatobia, Miss.  
1875; Built under direction of J. H. Cocke
19. 1977.356 Hancock County, Sparta, Ga.  
1881; Parker & Bruce, Architects
20. 1977.357 Anderson County, Anderson, S.C.  
1897; Architect unknown

FRANK GOHLKE

21. 1977.281 Ramsey County, St. Paul, Minn.  
1932; Thomas Ellerbe & Associates, Architects
22. 1977.298 Hennepin County, Minneapolis, Minn.  
1888-1906; Long & Kees, Architects
23. 1977.305 Tarrant County, Fort Worth, Texas  
1893-95; Frederick C. Gunn & Louis Curtis, Architects
24. 1977.309 Parker County, Weatherford, Texas  
1884-86; W.C. Dodson & W. W. Dudley, Architects
25. 1977.312 Denton County, Denton, Texas  
1895-96; W. C. Dodson, Architect
26. 1977.360 Hennepin County, Minneapolis, Minn.  
1888-1906; Long & Kees, Architects

PIKLE JONES

27. 1977.324 San Joaquin County, Stockton, Cal.  
1962-64; Courthouse Associated Architects,  
(Mayo, Johnson, DeWolf, Clowsley, Whipple)

LEWIS KOSTINER

- 28. 1977.288 Grays Harbor County, Montesano, Wash.  
1911; Watson Vernon, Architect
- 29. 1977.300 Los Angeles County, Los Angeles, Cal.  
1954-59; Stanton, Williams, Wilson of Austin, Field & Fry, Architects
- 30. 1977.301 Morgan County, Jacksonville, Ill.  
1868-69; G.P. Randall, Architect
- 31. 1977.306 Hancock County, Greenfield, Ind.  
1896-98; Wing & Mahurin, Architects
- 32. 1977.310 Macoupin County, Carlinville, Ill.  
1867-70; E. E. Myers and Son, Architects.
- 33. 1977.358 Jay County, Portland, Ind.  
1916-18; McLaughlin & Hulsker, Architects

NICHOLAS NIXON

- 34. 1977.276 Essex County, Salem, Mass.  
1841; Richard Bond, Architect
- 35. 1977.282 Plymouth County, Plymouth, Mass.  
1749; Judge Peter Oliver, Architect
- 36. 1977.322 Wayne County, Detroit, Mich.  
1953-55; Harley, Ellington & Day, Architects

TOD PAPAGEORGE

- 37. 1977.285 Appomattox County, Appomattox Court House, Va.  
1964; Henry Judd, Architect. Reconstruction of 1845 courthouse.
- 38. 1977.286 Carroll County, Huntington, Tenn.  
1931; Hart, Freeland & Roberts, Architects
- 39. 1977.297 Salt Lake County, Salt Lake City, Utah  
1891-94; Proudfoot, Bird & Monheim, Architects

RICHARD PARE

- 40. 1977.271 St. Louis County, St. Louis, Mo.  
1839-61; Henry Singleton, Robert S. Mitchell, Thomas D.  
P. Lanham & William Rumbold, Architects
- 41. 1977.283 Northampton County, Eastville, Va.  
1731; Architect unknown
- 42. 1977.287 St. Louis County, St. Louis, Mo.  
1839-61; Henry Singleton, Robert S. Mitchell, Thomas D.  
P. Lanham & William Rumbold, Architects
- 43. 1977.290 Charles City County, Charles City, Va.  
1730; Architect unknown

RICHARD PARE cont'd.

44. 1977.292 Allegheny County, Pittsburgh, Pa  
1884-88; H. H. Richardson, Architect
45. 1977.293 Delaware County, Delaware, Ohio  
1876; R. N. Jones, Architect
46. 1977.299 Philadelphia County, Philadelphia, Pa.  
1871-1901; John McArthur, Jr., & Thomas U. Walter, Architects
47. 1977.303 Geauga County, Chardon, Ohio  
1869; Joseph Ireland, Architect

STEPHEN SHORE

48. 1977.308 Greene County, Greensboro, Ga.  
1849; David Demorest and A. Atkinson, Architects
49. 1977.328 Greene County, Eutaw, Ala.  
1868-70; George M. Figh, Builder
50. 1977.329 Georgetown County, Georgetown, S.C.  
1824; Robert Mills (?), Architect
51. 1977.331 Frederick County, Winchester, Va.  
1840; Robert Cary, Architect
52. 1977.332 Hampshire County, Romney, W. Va.  
1922; Architect unknown
53. 1977.333 Loudoun County, Leesburg, Va.  
1894-1898; Architect unknown
54. 1977.347 Essex County, Newark, N.J.  
1902-07; Cass Gilbert, Architect

BOB THALL

55. 1977.273 Wapello County, Ottumwa, Iowa  
1892-93; Foster & Liebbe, Architects
56. 1977.307 Davis County, Bloomfield, Iowa  
1877-78; T.J. Tolan & Sons, Architects
57. 1977.314 Tippecanoe County, Lafayette, Ind.  
1881-85; Elias Max, Architect
58. 1977.317 Floyd County, New Albany, Ind.  
1961; Walker, Applegate, Oakes & Ritz, Architects  
Columns from previous courthouse by  
Stancliff & Vogdes of Louisville, 1865-67
59. 1977.320 Fountain County, Covington, Ind.  
1936-37; Walter Scholar, Architect  
Works Project Administration project

BOB THALL cont'd.

60. 1977.321 Vigo County, Terre Haute, Ind.  
1884-88; Samuel Hannaford, Architect
61. 1977.327 Jefferson County, Louisville, Ky.  
1836-42; Gideon Shryock, Architect  
Completed by Albert Fink, 1858-59

GEOFF WINNINGHAM

62. 1977.325 Franklin Parish County, Winnsboro, La.  
1950-51; John W. Baker and Neild-Somdal Assoc., Architects
63. 1977.277 Tarrant County, Fort Worth, Texas  
1893-95; Gunn and Curtis, Architects