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# UNDERSTANDING COURT SQUARE

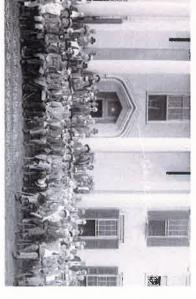
The original Albemarle County Courthouse located in Charlottesville was a wood frame structure built after the County seat was relocated from Scott's Ferry in 1761. Originally, the crucial fall-line port at Milton was considered for the Courthouse location. Instead, Dr. Thomas Walker donated fifty acres of land, located west of Milton, to be carved into a court square and city blocks. Colonel William Cabell won the blid to clear the timber and build the courthouse as the first civic building in 1762.

It was here that local elections were held with the help of attorneys and magistrates like Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe, who practiced law in Charlottesville. The Albemarle County Courthouse was the only voting location until the mid-1800s. It

was customary for candidates to supply food and drink to their supporters on Election Day. Rum punch was a favorite beverage of the publicly selecting his candidate.

In May 1781, the Virginia General Assembly designated the courthouse the temporary state capitol building as British troops of the Assembly Richard Henry Lee, John Tyler, and Daniel Boone met at the courthouse and surrounding taverns to deliberate about the Revolution.

Residents in the homes surrounding Court Square often owned one or two slaves, who lived in their homes or nearby buildings, through the antebellum period.



## USTICE

The whipping post, pillory, stocks, and gallows were used in the process. The jail played a small background role as a space for housing those on trial or awaiting punishment. Court Square included these public punishment structures. Thefirstjail was built on Court Square in 1766. By 1876, the jail had outgrown the available facilities. Rather than reconstruct the jail next to the courthouse in full view of the public, the jail was relocated on a low plot of land behind High Street. This followed Until the 1870s, corporal punishment, meted in public ces, was a popular method of addressing criminals

anal patterns in criminal justice and crime prevention, who red confining inmates away from the general population by the 1850s, there were many laws regulating the lives

to slaves burning barns and other farm structures, or attempting to poison their masters. When found guilty, slaves were either lashed at the public whipping post on Court Square or hanged. In 1861, Virginia declared that all freed blacks between eighteen and fifty years old must register to fight for the Confederate States of America in the Civil War. The state of aves and the relationships among slaves, slave-owners, and eed blacks. During the decades leading up to the Civil War, belilious slave activity was increasingly common. Throughout e 1800s, slutiple cases were heard at the courthouse related to 1800s, which have not deather from structures of extremities.

Virginia asked that urban and rural slave owners voltheir slaves to help build defenses in Richmond. December 12th of 1862, 540 slaves from Albo County were brought to Court Square before traveled to the state capital to fight for the Confect



expanded and renovated, undergoing significant stylistic changes as late as 1938, when the building was remodeled in the Colonial Revival style you see today. A lively street called McKee Block predated the statue of Stonewall Jackson on the west side of the square until 1921. The open space in the square was formerly occupied by a number of lawyer offices, a jail, and whipping post. The original courthouse was a wood frame building built on the northern boundary of the town of Charlottesville, surrounded by houses rather than streets, in the style of an "English green." In

The appearance of Court Square has changed over ast 250 years. The Albemarle County Courthouse has I

1762: Founding of Charlottesville
1766: Fest Albernate County jail is built at Court Square
1770: Swan Tanern's built
1775: 1783: THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR
1781: Charlottesville serves as the temporary state capital
1781: Jack Josett's ricle to warn of British troops

1803: Brick courrhouse (now facing High Street) replaces wood courrhouse
1803: 1806: LEWIS & CLARK EXPEDITION FOR THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE
1819: THOMAS LEFERSON FOUNDS THE UNIFIESTY OF VIRGINIA
1820: Number Nothing is built as a mercantile duplex
1823: The Charlottesville Library is established on Sidth Street
1823: The Swam Tawern falls down
1824: The Swam Tawern falls down
1840: Businesses on Main Street compete with Court Square as the City's commercial center
1850s: The Louisa Railroad Company completes a rail line that passes through Obarlottesville
1825: Town Hall is built with orizon investment
1861-1865: THE AMERICAN CVIN WAR
1807: A public school system is established in Virginia
1807: Orarlottesville's first streekcar is built and pulled by horse and mule
1888: Charlottesville's declared an independent dity (population 5,000)

The two story portico and large columns were added ten years later in 1938, the courthouse was renovated as part or

on disguised signs of the Gothic introduced the Colonial Revival style

1803, the wooden courthouse was replaced with a new two-story prick building that now forms the rear elevation facing High Street. In 1860, the southern side of the Courthouse was expanded with

1914-1918: WORLD WAR I
1918: McKee Block is purchased and demollished by Paul Goodloe McIntire
1900: WOREN'S SUFFRACE IS LEGALIZED (1911 AMERIMENT)
1921: Jackson Park is created complete with a statue of Storewal Jackson
1906: The Mornicalio Hotel is built
1938: Courthouse is remodeled in the Colonial Revival style
1939: 1945: MORLD WAR II
1939: PUBLIC SCHOOL SEGREGATION LEGALLY ENDS (BROWN VS. BOARD OF EDUCATION)
1939: The Barracks Road Shopping Center opens
1960: A referendum passes to redevelup Vinegar Hill Using federal Urban Renewal money
1979: Construction begins on Charlotteswille's Pedestrian Mall

2002-2004: Court Square undergoes rehabilitation
2012: Charlottesville celebrates the 250th Anniversary of its founding

