

J. MICHAEL GREENE
JUDGE, MUNICIPAL COURT – CITY OF AMERICUS

119 S. LEE STREET
AMERICUS, GEORGIA 31709

PHONE (229) 924-3678
(Ask for the Clerk of Court)

April 19th, 2007

Dear Fellow Citizens of Americus and Sumter County:

The Dec. 26, 1831 legislation creating Sumter County designated the house of John Kimmy, in the twenty seventh district, as the temporary courthouse of the new county. How long this served as courthouse is not known. Reportedly, John R. Moore was paid \$950 in 1834 to build a new courthouse but in July 1834 fled the county with the money. In 1839, a two-story, wood-frame courthouse was completed in the center of the town square. In 1853, this structure was moved to the west side of Jackson St., and a new brick courthouse built in its place by Patrick Adams was the contractor.

In 1883, the General Assembly authorized a referendum to be held in Sumter County to allow the county to borrow up to \$30,000 to construct a new courthouse (Ga. Laws 1882-83, p. 656). The results of the referendum, which required approval of two-thirds of those voting, are not known, but in 1887 work began on a new courthouse at the corner of Forsyth and Lee streets. This building, designed by Atlanta architects Bruce & Morgan, was completed in May 1888 and served until May 1959, when it was razed and the present courthouse was completed. Subsequently, the former courthouse was torn down. The 1888 courthouse was built by Bruce & Morgan of Atlanta.

In November, 1957 formal groundbreaking for the new courthouse took place at the southwest corner of Dudley and Lamar with Congressman E. L. 'Tic' Forrester as speaker. Following is a scan of the program of the dedication of the new courthouse in 1959 with the Honorable Bond Almand, Associate Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court, as the speaker. The original is housed at the Sumter County Courthouse in a display case.

Also, following are photos of the early Sumter Courthouse.

Sincerely,
/s/ J. Michael Greene
J. Michael Greene
Judge, Municipal Court
City of Americus



DEDICATION

**SUMTER COUNTY
COURTHOUSE**

AMERICUS, GEORGIA

2:00 P.M.

THURSDAY, MAY 21ST, 1939

PROGRAM

Honorable George L. Mathews, Presiding

Invocation _____ Rev. Charles W. Rightmyer
Pastor, First Presbyterian Church

Welcome to Visitors _____ Hon. Fred Bowen
Mayor, City of Americus
Hon. George L. Mathews
Chairman, County Commissioners

Recognition of Special Guests _____ Hon. George L. Mathews
Chairman, County Commissioners
Hon. Hollis Fort, Jr.
County Attorney

Introduction of Speaker _____ Hon. Tom O. Marshall
President, Americus Bar Association

Dedicatory Address _____ Hon. Bond Almand
Associate Justice
Supreme Court of Georgia

Announcements _____ Hon. George L. Mathews
Chairman, County Commissioners

Adjournment

* * * * *

There will be open house from 2:00 until 6:00 P. M. with members of the Americus Bar Association Auxiliary and wives of the County Officers acting as hostesses.

COUNTY OFFICERS

Board of Commissioners of Roads and Revenues

George L. Mathews,
Chairman
Rufus Chappell
J. A. Cook
Phil Jones
Fred Statham

Attorney

Hollis Fort, Jr.

Treasurer

Mrs. J. F. Hartsfield

Superintendent of Schools

W. W. Foy

Board of Education

A. H. Jennings, Chairman
Hoke Smith
Howard Logan
James E. Carter, Jr.
J. W. Chesk

Sheriff

Fred D. Chappell

Deputy

W. L. Popwell

Tax Commissioner

Tom H. Gatewood

Judge Superior Court

Cleveland Rees

Solicitor-General

Charles Burgamy

Judge, City Court of Americus

James W. Smith

Solicitor, City Court of Americus

Claude N. Morris

Ordinary

R. T. Hawkins

Coroner

H. E. Wells

Surveyor

Kendall Wooten

Justice of the Peace

Cooper M. Bradley

Clerk of Superior Court

S. R. Heys

Members of Americus Bar Association

Charles Burgamy
Wingate Dykes
George Ellis
J. Lewis Ellis
Hollis Fort, Jr.
Eugene Horne
R. T. Hawkins
W. T. Lane
R. L. LeSueur
R. L. LeSueur, Jr.
Secretary-Treasurer

T. O. Marshall, Jr., President
Claude N. Morris
Jack Murr
J. Frank Myers
Robert Perry, Vice-President
Stephen Pace, Sr.
Stephen Pace, Jr.
William E. Smith
Judge James W. Smith
Hiram K. Undercoffer
H. B. Williams
G. C. Webb

THE BUILDING

The Courthouse is a one-story building located on a 8-½ acre tract, with 31,556 square feet, and provides facilities for all departments of County Government.

The building is approached from the intersection of Dudley and West Lamar Streets by walkways into an open court, which has been beautifully landscaped, and has a rectangular pool with fascia of pink Georgia marble, augmented by a flag pole. The exterior of the building is of soft gray glazed brick, with the exception of the Superior Court wing which is of pink Georgia margle with gray veining.

As the building is entered, there is a spacious lobby which, by opening the doors to the Superior Courtroom, can be used for large assemblies in special occasions, and at the same time be closed off so that any function there will not interfere with the operations of other agencies throughout the building. the floor of the lobby is terrazzo. Two of the walls in the lobby are covered from floor to ceiling with Georgia pink marble as is used on the exterior.

The heating and refrigeration of the building employs fans which deliver warmed or cooled air to the respective rooms through duct systems. The heating is delivered to the fans from a central gas boiler and hot water circulating pumps. Refrigeration is delivered to the fans from electrically driven air conditioning units, and chilled water pumps.

All offices have fluorescent lighting. Courtroom and corridors have incandescent lighting.

Adequate parking space has been provided.

—E. Oren Smith, Architect

General Contractor —

Barber Contracting Co.
Moultrie, Georgia



1959 Board of Commissioners of Roads and Revenues



Sumter County Courthouse Ground Breaking

10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, July 10, 2007
Site of current Sumter County Courthouse

AGENDA

WELCOME

The Honorable Bill Bowen
Chairman
Sumter County Board of Commissioners

REMARKS BY CITY OF AMERICUS REPRESENTATIVE

The Honorable Barry Blount
Mayor, City of Americus

REMARKS BY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Brad Lafeyers
Chairman
Americus Sumter County Chamber of Commerce

Ms. Alice Bolstridge
Interim President
Americus Sumter County Chamber of Commerce

SUMTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE HISTORY

Mr. Alan Anderson
Sumter County Historian

REMARKS BY ROSSER INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Mr. Jeff Prine
Director for Program/Construction Management

GROUND BREAKING AND PHOTO SESSION TO FOLLOW

Americus
Sumter County

G ♦ E ♦ O ♦ R ♦ G ♦ I ♦ A

Chamber of Commerce



**You are
Cordially
Invited to Attend**

**A Ground Breaking
For the New**



Sumter County Courthouse

10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, July 10, 2007

At the site of the current courthouse

COME SEE YOUR SPLOST DOLLARS AT WORK!!!

Sponsored by the Sumter County Board of Commissioners