

MISSOURI COURTHOUSES

BOLLINGER COUNTY

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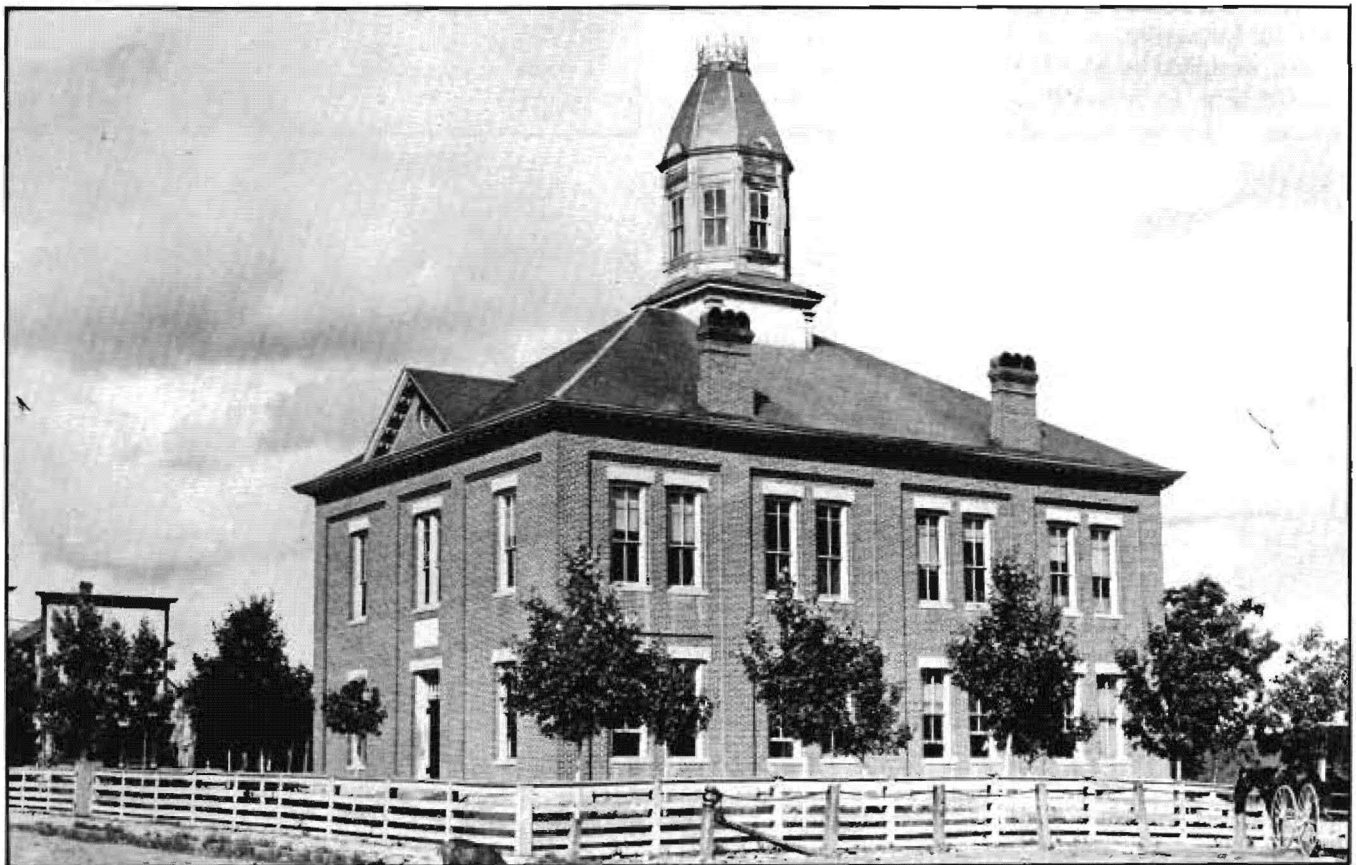


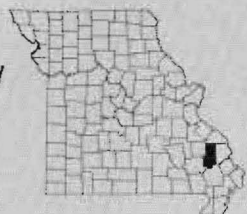
Fig. 1. Bollinger County Courthouse, 1885-. Architect: Morris Frederick Bell. (Courtesy: State Historical Society of Missouri)

Bollinger County, originally a part of Wayne, Cape Girardeau and Stoddard counties, became an independent county March 1, 1851. During the same year

Thomas Hamilton selected the site and laid out a plan for the town of New California. Commissioners assigned to locate the county seat laid out a town called Dallas, which included New California. Citizens petitioned to change the name to Marble Hill in 1865. Commissioners located the first courthouse, built in 1852, several blocks north of the original public square. The 30-foot-square, brick, two-story building served as courthouse until destroyed by fire March 2, 1866.

At a special meeting March 12, 1866, the court appointed Philip Sutherlin (also spelled Sutherlan and Sutherland) clerk, to serve as commissioner of the new

County Bollinger
Organized Mar. 1, 1851
Named After . . . Col. George Fred
Bollinger, first
settler, early
politician, state
senator
County Seat . . . Marble Hill



courthouse. The court authorized him to contract with James Rogers, who was also the sheriff, to build on a plan similar to that of the previous building. In November 1866 the court decided the building should be two feet taller.

By December Sutherlin reported work in progress, and in July 1867 he said the building was completed as agreed. Contracted for \$2,800, final costs amounted to about \$3,000. Louis Houck, an eyewitness in 1869, described the courthouse as a frame building in an unfenced, treeless public square.

By 1884 the building had been condemned as unsafe and virtually abandoned. It was destroyed by fire March 12, 1884.

After an unsuccessful attempt to move the county seat to Lutesville, a new 50-by-60-foot brick courthouse, designed by Morris Frederick Bell, was erected in 1885 (Fig. 1). James P. Gillick, St. Louis, was contractor, and superintendent was Jacob J. Conrad. The

building, which originally cost about \$9,000, was enlarged in 1912 by Carmen and Smith for about \$7,000. Extensive repairs in the 1960s and 1970s have made possible continued use of the courthouse.

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