

MISSOURI COURTHOUSES

GENTRY COUNTY

Marian M. Ohman
Coordinator, Art History Programs

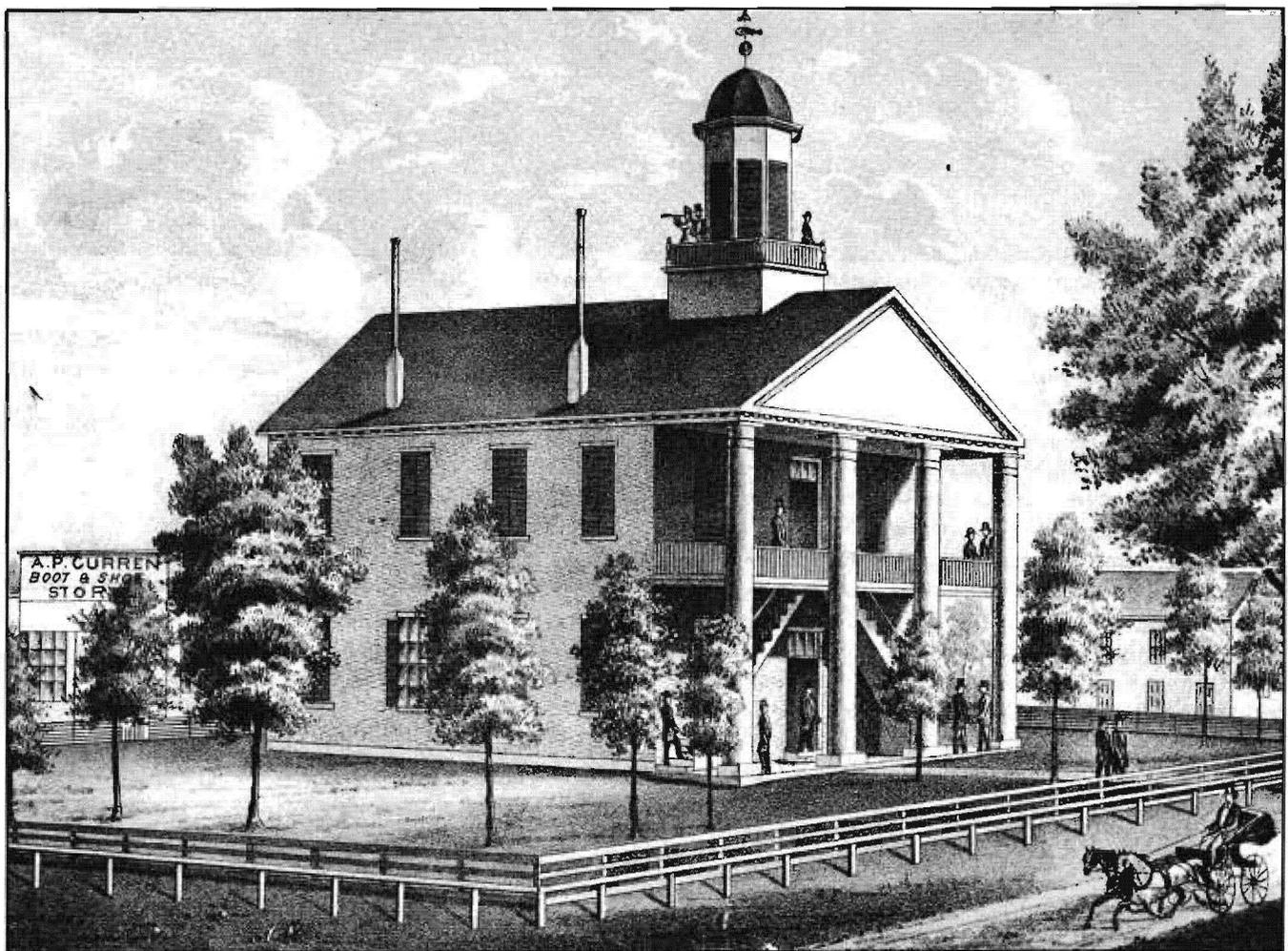


Fig. 1. Gentry County Courthouse, 1853-1883. (From: *An Illustrated Historical Atlas of Gentry County, Missouri*, 1877)

County Gentry
Organized Feb. 14, 1845
Named After . . . Gen. Richard
Gentry
County Seat . . . Albany



The name of the county seat of Gentry County, originally Athens, was changed to Albany in 1857. Isaac Cameron was commissioner of the first courthouse, which dates from 1845. The court order, issued June 7, 1845, called for a hewn-log, two-story building, 24 by 20 feet. There were three upper rooms, a brick chimney and two fireplaces. Two doors and two win-

Gentry County Court House, Albany, Mo.

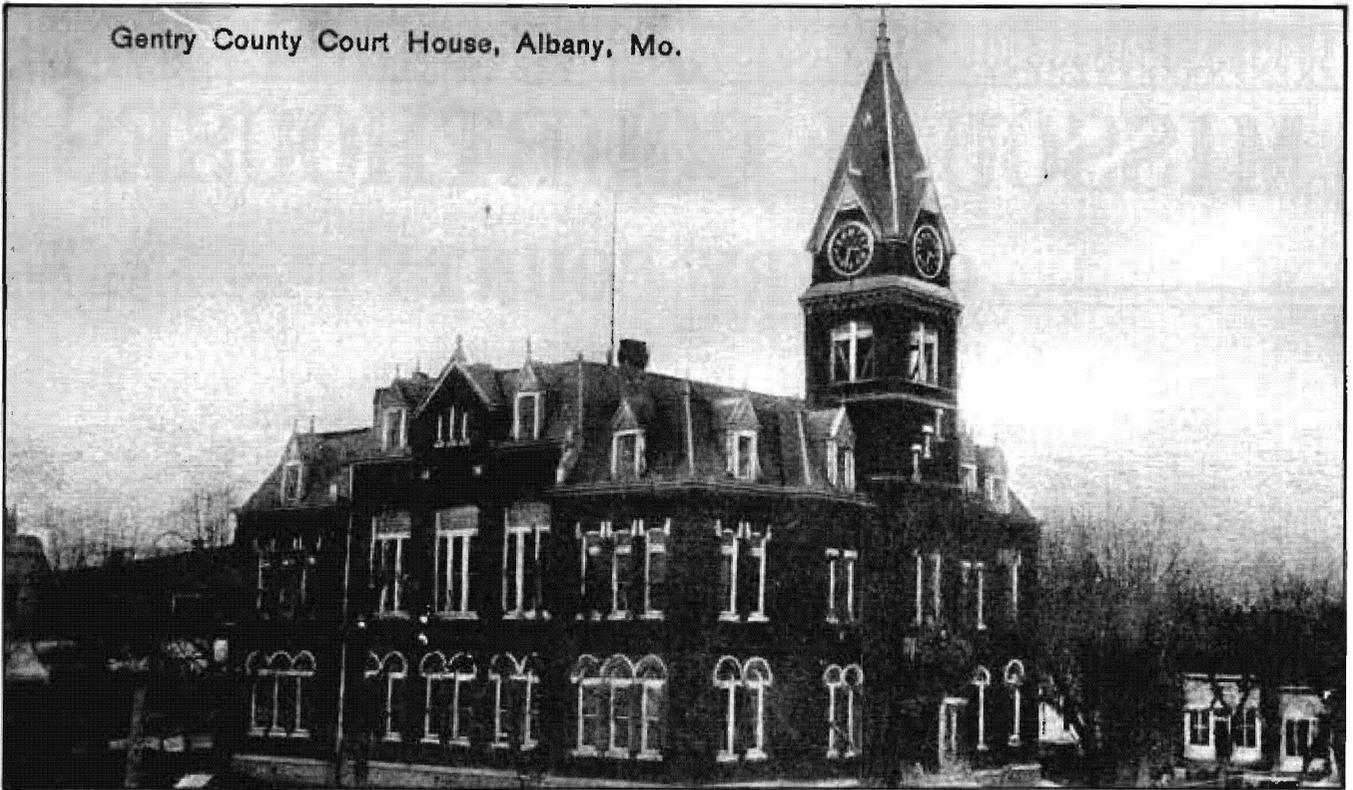


Fig. 2. Gentry County Courthouse, 1884-. Architects: Eckel & Mann (From: postcard, Trenton Boyd collection)

dows were in the lower story, and one window and one door in each upper room. The courtroom was located in the lower floor with curved bar and judge's bench. The courthouse and lot sold for \$275 to Judge Elias Parrot when a new building was anticipated.

The second courthouse in Gentry County was a temple-type building erected between 1853-55 by George H. Mosley, who sub-contracted some of the work. It was a brick building, 60 by 45 feet, two stories with a 12-foot-wide portico on the south. There were four rooms upstairs for a public hall and jury rooms. The courtroom originally was located in the lower story and measured 40 by 45 feet. During remodeling in 1875, the courtroom was moved to the second story (Fig. 1). Exterior stairs may have been added at that time. Total

appropriations for the building came to about \$6,000. The building was destroyed by windstorm on July 13, 1883.

The third and present courthouse, a three-story brick building, dates from 1884-85. Designed by Edmond J. Eckel, one of northwest Missouri's finest architects, it was built by Rufus K. Allen, St. Joseph, Missouri, who first contracted for the exterior and roofing of the 200-foot-square building for \$22,000, and later completed the interior work. The cost was \$29,100.

Cornerstone for the building was laid August 24, 1884; the building was accepted June 5, 1885 (Fig. 2). Other Missouri courthouses by Eckel's firm include Nodaway, 1881, Atchison, 1882 and DeKalb, 1885.

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