

IRON COUNTY

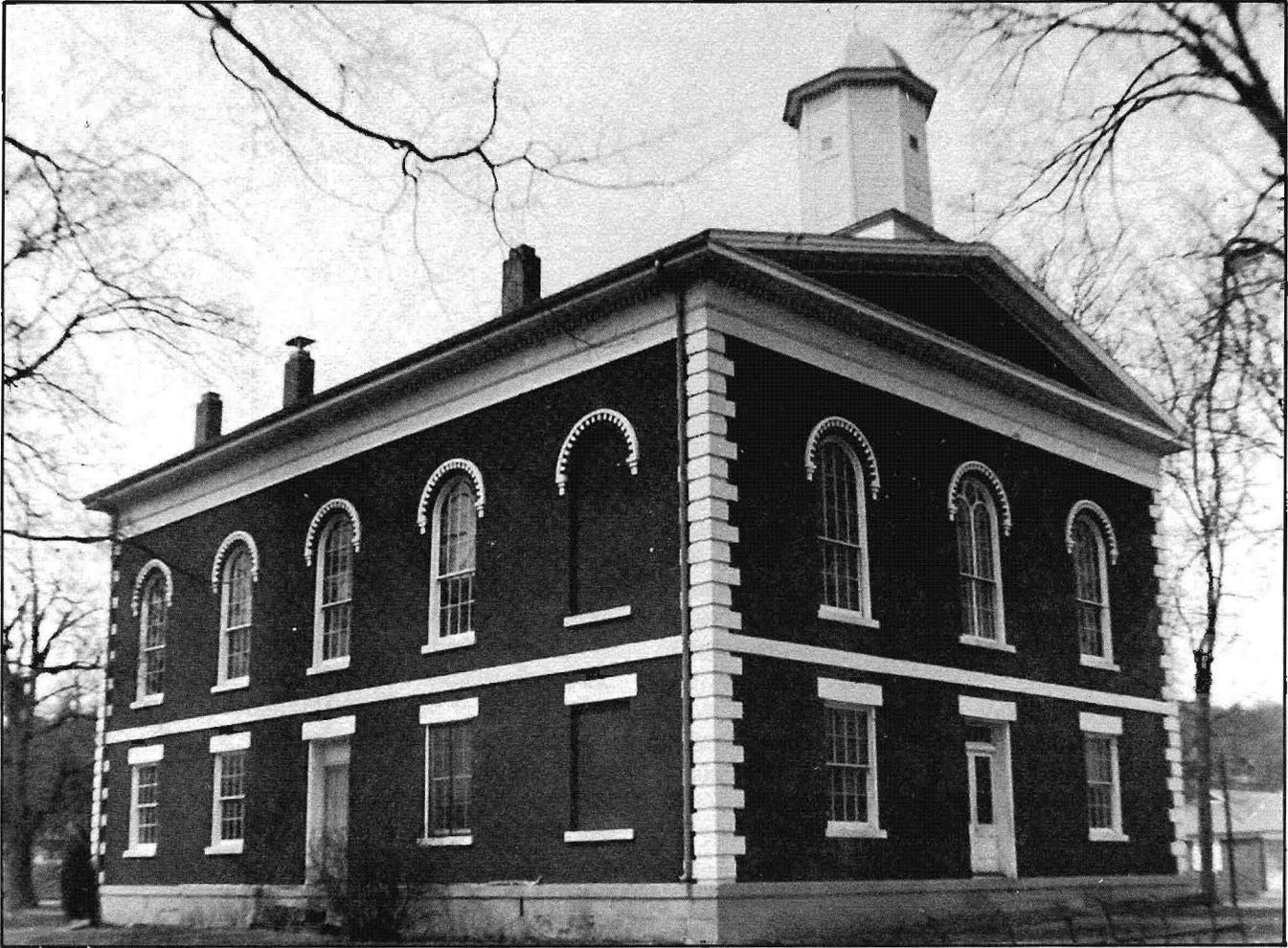
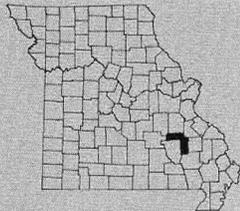


Fig. 1. Iron County Courthouse, 1858-. Architect: Henry H. Wright (Courtesy: State Historical Society of Missouri)

County Iron
Organized Feb. 17, 1857
Named After In recognition of
its iron mines
County Seat Ironton



Iron County has had only one courthouse. Ironton was chosen as the county seat in 1857. David Carson and Hiram N. Tong, businessmen in the area, owned the site of Ironton and had laid out the town. They donated alternate town lots to the county, and money from the sale of these lots provided more than \$10,000 of the \$14,000 cost of the courthouse.

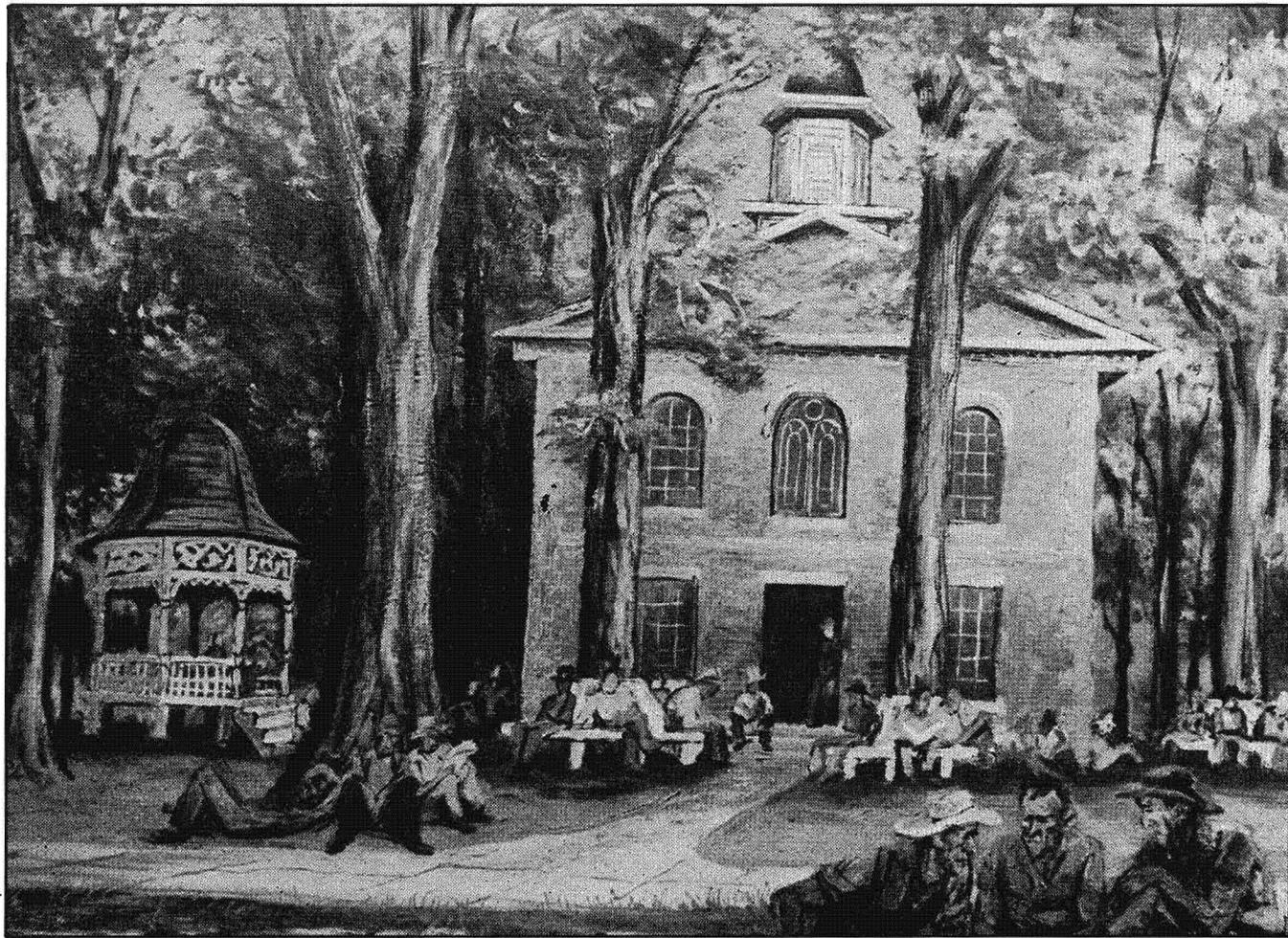


Fig. 2. "Saturday, The County Court House, Ironton," painting by Howard Baer. (From: Scuggs, Vandervoort, Barney Collection, University of Missouri-Columbia)

Henry H. Wright furnished the plan for the building and was awarded \$25. The court granted the building contract to George S. Evans and William F. Mitchell. The cornerstone ceremony took place on July 4, 1858. Construction was completed and the building ready for occupancy in October 1860 (Fig. 1).

The red brick building trimmed with white stone originally measured about 50 by 65 feet. There were six rooms on the first floor, the courtroom on the second. Other Missouri courthouses by Wright include: Washington, 1849; Franklin, 1847; St. Francois, 1848.

In 1964 a three-story addition to the west extended the length of the courthouse to almost 110 feet. Architects of this \$113,000 project were Hutchens and Frangkiser, Kansas City.

Howard Baer's painting of this courthouse, 1947, is in the Scuggs, Vandervoort, Barney collection at the University of Missouri-Columbia (Fig. 2).

The courthouse is included in the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination form includes the Civil War history associated with this courthouse.

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