

Covington Courthouse



Covington's City Hall/Courthouse, 1850s **Kenton County Formed**

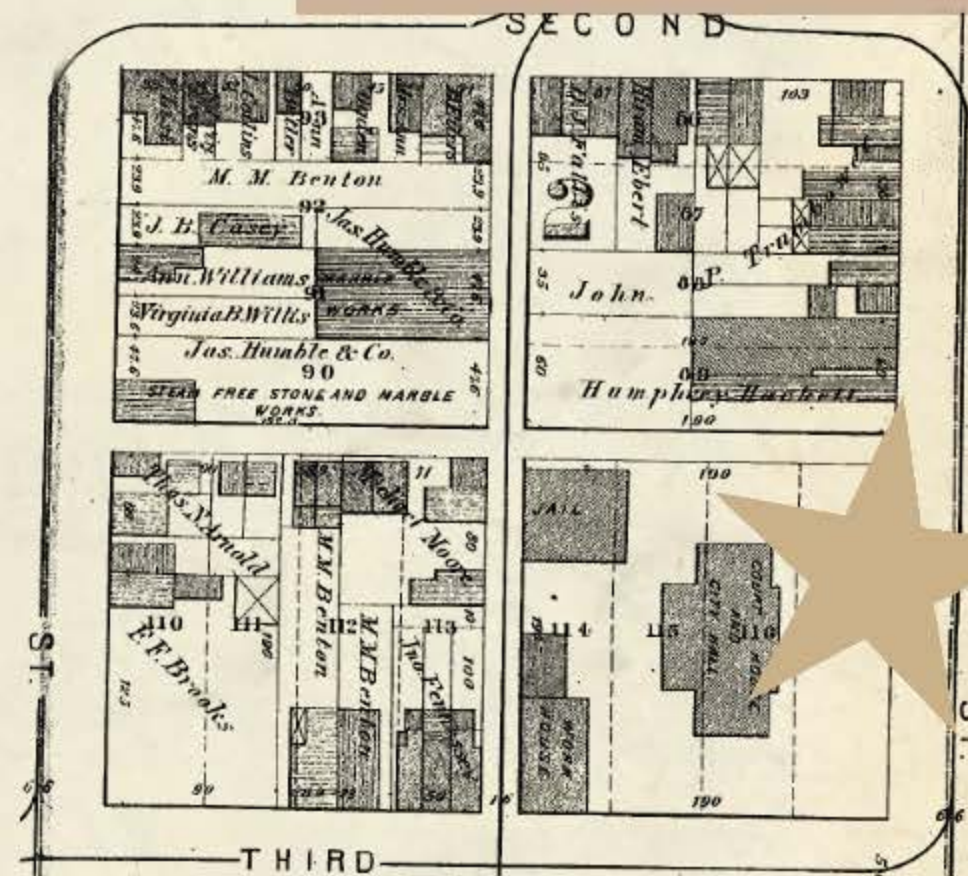
Kenton County was carved out of neighboring Campbell County as the result of a rivalry between the cities of Covington and Newport. By the late 1830s, the Newport courthouse and jail were in need of repair, and Covington residents were willing to pay for new facilities to be built, as long as they would be located on their side of the Licking River.

Rather than move the county seat to Covington, a petition to form a new county west of the Licking River gained hundreds of signatures, and Kenton County was formed in 1840.

After some debate about whether to allow voters to decide upon a location for the new county seat, or leave it in the hands of commissioners to make the decision, Independence was declared the county seat, and the first courthouse was built there—thirteen miles south of Covington.

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Since Independence was rural and far away from the population center of Covington, the Kentucky Legislature in 1851 permitted county business to be conducted in Covington. In April 1858 the county judge presided over the first county court session in Covington. In 1860 the first deeds were recorded in Covington.

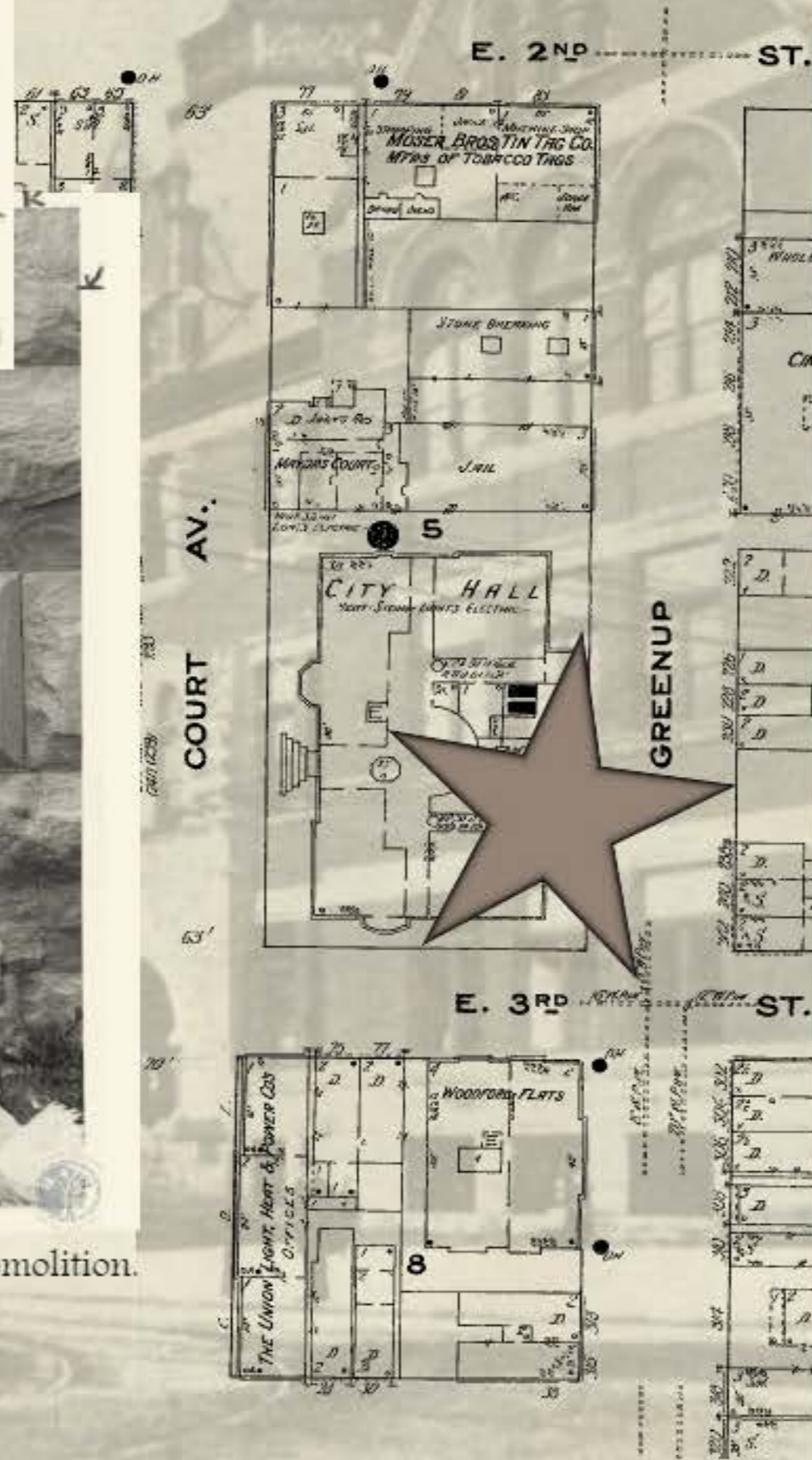


The courthouse and city hall building was located at 3rd and Greenup.

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Cornerstone during 1970 demolition.



A commanding presence.

The building housing Covington's original City Hall and Courthouse was built in 1843. After more than five decades and extensive renovations, the building was razed in July of 1899 to make way for new construction to hold city and county services. The cornerstone for the new building (pictured above) was placed in October of 1899. The brick-faced Chateausque building was designed by the architectural firm of Dittoe and Wisenall.

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Rendering of the City-County Building.



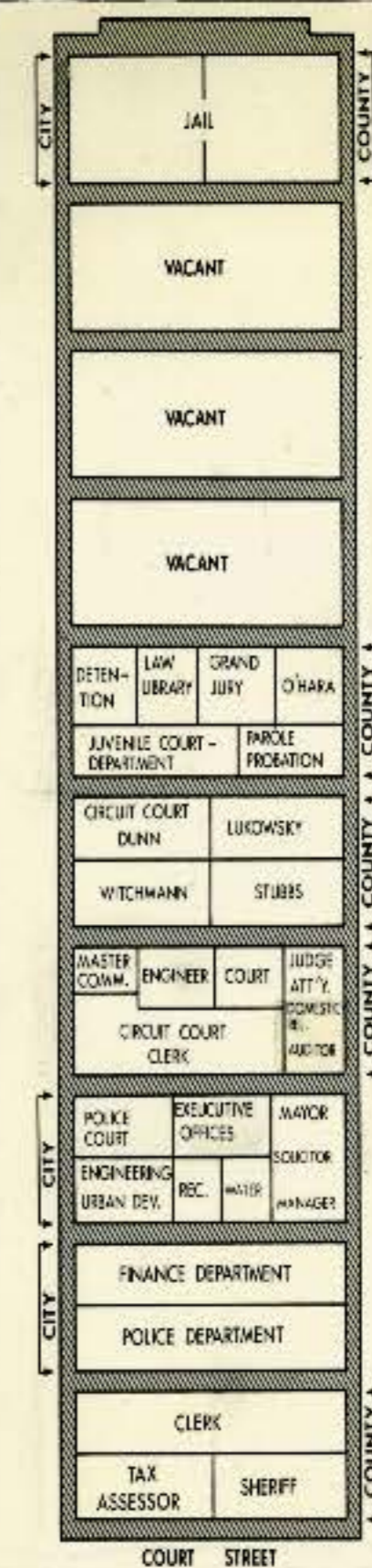
Mary Lou Baute posed with construction.

The County Building of Today

In 1968, the new Kenton County building began to rise above the streets of Covington. The ten-story brick building was designed by Carl Bankemper to house the city and county offices. The Federal Building (and former Post Office) was demolished to make way for the new structure which was completed in 1970, the same year that the previous courthouse was demolished. In 1985, the building was occupied entirely by county offices and services. It is still in use today at 303 Court Street.



View from Scott Boulevard.



Original layout for each story.