

**Madison County Courthouse Fence Restoration**  
City of Canton  
Madison County, Mississippi  
*Community Heritage Preservation Grant Program Round 12*



The Historic Madison County Courthouse, constructed 1855-1858, is listed individually on the National Register of Historic places and as a Mississippi Landmark. The Courthouse Square District was also added to the National Register as a district in 1982. The Courthouse building has undergone numerous renovations, with the most recent being in 2005. The 2005 renovation restored the cupola and the 1994-95 renovation by Craig and Singleton Architects entailed restoring and renovating several facets of the building.

The Greek Revival Courthouse was constructed in 1855 and is a three story structure that was paid for by the Board of Police at the time. The building was renovated in 1925. Much of the original style is still preserved through the detailing on the gables and eaves along with the floor plan organization of the building. The building site, historic iron fencing and out-buildings contribute heavily to the grandeur of the building and the surrounding Commercial buildings. The Canton square is an exemplary example of a Courthouse Square district and has been touted as one of the three best examples in the state.



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The historic courthouse fence has remained a fixture for the courthouse square over the years and has been party to many Canton Flea Markets and Christmas Seasons, but it has sustained some damage such as removed finials, and bent/deformed portions. The area of greatest damage is where a 25' section of the fence was removed to build a Tax Annex on the Northeast side of the courthouse lot. This section of fencing was not able to be recovered and reinstalled when the Tax Annex was demolished in 2004-2005.



The County is requesting grants funds to assist in the restoration of the historic iron fencing including replacement of the missing 25 foot section. The fence will remain in-place for the restoration with molds being made of the existing fence for the replication of the needed items such as upper and lower finials. There are approximately 45 missing or damaged finials and 3-4 sections of bent or leaning fencing. Once the repairs are made the fence stabilized where needed the fence will be cleaned and painted.

Please consider this highly visible and greatly loved historic fence for grant assistance, the impact of this restoration project will further enhance the historic district and encourage the blossoming future of the Canton Historic Square and Madison County.