

Photouring Florida

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Court House Modeled After Jefferson's 'Monticello'

Two Federal highways - - U.S. 19 and U.S. 90 - - intersect in the heart of this lovely North Florida community. Centered in a traffic circle at the intersection is the attractive Jefferson County Court House.

This county site is named for the famed Virginia home of Thomas Jefferson, and the court house is modeled after that historic structure. Jefferson had died on July 4, 1826 - - the year before this county was created and the local Post Office received a name.

When the town was laid out, the two main streets were named Jefferson (U.S. 19), running north and south, and Washington (U.S. 90), running east and west.

The first settlers came to Monticello in the early 1800's, and the site of the present court house was where the blockhouse was

located. It is a significant fact that later descendants of Thomas Jefferson were residents of Monticello for many years.

Over the entrance to the Court House is the latin inscription, "Suum Cuique." Carr Settle, editor of the 100-year-old Monticello News - - oldest weekly newspaper in Florida - - quips that the Latin message really means: "Sue 'em Quick." But a local scholar says it means, "To Each His Own."

Jefferson County have a slogan of its own. It is, "The County that holds the State together." It reaches from the Georgia state line to the Gulf of Mexico, serving as a divider between east and west Florida. The county's greatest width is 22 miles. Jefferson is the only county bordering the Gulf which has no road to the coast.