at the northwest corner of Bay and Newnan Streets. The lower story was for a time used as a dwelling and was afterward divided for a store. The upper floor was one room; here the Superior court held two or three terms, with considerable discomfort as there were no sash windows, and the wind and rain had full sweep through.

When it became known that Jacksonville had been selected as the county seat John Brady conveyed the lot at the northeast corner of Market and Forsyth Streets (actually valued at $15) to Benjamin Chaires and Francis J. Ross in trust to be conveyed to the county as a site for the court house. Preparations for building a court house were started in 1824, but actual construction did not begin until the summer of 1825. Immense hewn timbers were hauled to the lot and when they were laid out for framing the people of the county voluntarily gathered and under the direction of Seymour Pickett raised them in two days. When this was done Messrs. Chaires and Ross deeded the lot to the county (July 13, 1825) in compliance with the trust from Brady.

The court house remained in this state more than three years, with only the framing standing. In 1826 the basement was roofed over and subsequent terms of court were held there when the weather was good; or else in the hall over John Warren's place. About 1828-9, the framing was boarded in and the roof put on. The temporary hewn timbers supporting the construction were removed and brick pillars of great size and strength were built and the building correctly leveled. The court house faced the river. A long, broad portico, supported by brick pillars was before the front and broad steps led up to it from the ground. Back of these was the entrance to the basement, which was ten feet in the clear. The main entrance was ten feet high and was provided with wide double doors. Inside steps led up on the east and the west to the upper story. The windows, seven feet high and four feet wide, were provided with double shutters of white pine, which closed out the wind and rain and also the light.

This court house was known far and wide as the best constructed building in all of this part of the country. The difficulties confronting the county authorities in raising funds for the completion of the court house are recorded in their minutes. They petitioned the U. S. government to