

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED **MAR 14 1975**

DATE ENTERED **MAY 27 1975**

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Gila County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Oak and Broad Streets

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Globe

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Arizona

04

Gila

007

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Gila County

STREET & NUMBER

Oak and Broad Streets

CITY, TOWN

Globe

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Arizona

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Gila County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Oak and Broad Streets

CITY, TOWN

Globe

STATE

Arizona

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_ STATE \_\_ COUNTY \_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Gila County Courthouse, at the corner of Oak and Broad Streets in Globe, was built in 1906-1907 from a design by W. R. Norton of Phoenix. It was constructed on the site of the first Courthouse and used the stone from the earlier building.

The building was a massive stone structure approximately 80 x 80 and three stories high. An article in the local newspaper of the time described it as "modern composite" in style with Egyptian ornamentation and French Renaissance roof lines. It was built of tufa which is plentiful in the area.

The lower floor contained the jail, the justice court, and an office for the sheriff. On the main floor, which was reached by a pyramidal stairway, were offices for the board of supervisors, the school superintendent, the probate judge, the treasurer, the recorder, and the assessor. The upper floor housed the law library, courtroom, and judge's chambers as well as offices for the court clerk and district attorney.

In 1909, it was found necessary to construct a separate jail east of the courthouse. From 1912 to 1919, a number of changes were made in the interior. The vaults on the south side of the building were enlarged, necessitating the closing in of several windows on that side. The attic was converted into a fourth floor to make space for two jury rooms. Several of the office ceilings have been lowered. Awnings on the windows of the west side, while practical for those working inside, detract greatly from the appearance of the building.

The central portion of the courthouse has four stories and is flanked by three-storied wings. The building is roughly square and constructed of coursed cut stone. The front entrance, on the west side of the building, is flanked by four pilasters reaching to the top of the third floor where they flank three pairs of brackets. What is now the fourth floor was originally an attic, decorated on the outside by two entablatures and decorative panels. Some of the panels have been removed to make room for windows. The truncated hipped roof formerly had a crenellated trim.

The windows of the main floor and the front door have segmented pediments. Over the entryway there are four round windows, and above that, three keyhole windows. There are two recesses on the south side reaching to the middle of the third floor. There is a third-floor balcony in each recess.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1907

BUILDER/ARCHITECT W. R. Norton

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The second Gila County Courthouse was constructed in 1906-1907 on the site of the original building. Plans are now being made to build a new courthouse at a different location and to convert this impressive building to some other community use.

Prospecting and settlement in the Globe area began about 1870 and was inspired by the discovery of silver deposits. One of the early mines was The Globe, and the mining district acquired that name.

The town of Globe was laid out in 1876 but had no elected officials until January of 1881. In February, the new County of Gila was created by combining a part of Maricopa County with a part of Pinal County. Eight years later, a piece of Yavapai County was added.

Since Globe was chosen as the county seat, there was a need for county buildings, and for several years the county offices were distributed among various buildings of the town. The land on which the courthouse stands was purchased in 1882, but the first Gila County Courthouse was not built until 1888. This first courthouse was a square, two-story stone building with a hipped roof. The jail was on the lower floor. It was a plain, functional building but not designed to expand with the expanding needs of the community, and as early as 1892 there was agitation for the addition of a third floor. The debts of the county, however, prevented such an outlay.

After 1898, the economic condition of the county improved considerably. A branch line of the Southern Pacific was completed to Globe in that year. Perhaps more important was the development of new methods of smelting lowgrade copper ore. Eventually, the copper wealth of the district far surpassed the silver which had originally lured prospectors and settlers to Globe.

The county and the community grew so rapidly in the next few years that a new courthouse, rather than a remodeled one, appeared to be needed.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arizona Silver Belt

Garrison, James. The Second Gila County Courthouse, Globe

Arizona: Past, Present, Future. 1974

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/5

UTM OK  
HL

UTM REFERENCES

A 1 2 | 5 19 | 8 7 0 | 3 6 19 5 10 2 0  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marjorie Wilson, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arizona State Parks Board

DATE

3-5-75

STREET & NUMBER

1688 West Adams

TELEPHONE

(602) 271-4174

CITY OR TOWN

Phoenix

STATE

Arizona

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE X

LOCAL     

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

~~SIGNATURE~~ SIGNATURE

*Dennis Mc Carthy*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 3-5-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

5/27/86

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5-27-75

*R. A. Morkerson*  
*Charles Herring*  
*Loting*

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

Permission was sought from the U.S. Congress and the Territorial Legislature to raise the county's bonded indebtedness, and in 1905 the county was authorized to issue \$40,000 worth of bonds for a new courthouse.

The new building was designed by W. R. Norton of Phoenix. It was built on the site of the first courthouse and used the stone from the earlier building. Construction began early in 1906 and was completed in March of 1907. With occasional alterations to accommodate the increase in public business, the courthouse has continued in use. However, by 1974 the need for a new building was apparent. Plans have been made to construct it on a different site, and the Globe Bicentennial Committee is working to save the old courthouse for some other community purpose. There is some hope of restoring the building and removing the effects of unattractive alterations.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Courthouse ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

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The Second Gila County Courthouse is a composite of classical designs, but its dominant theme reflects the Italian Renaissance style as interpreted by the architect, who was probably following the revival trend started by the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago. It is a symmetrical building with pilasters rising to an ornate frieze and cornice. Classical details are also found above the main story windows and were along the roofline, especially at the corners.

The building exterior is constructed of locally quarried stone. Brick is used for interior bearing walls, and the floors and roof are framed and sheathed in wood. The classical details, including the frieze, cornice, and window details are of pressed metal.

To the "turn of the century" community of Globe, the Second Gila County Courthouse and its reflection of design consideration, marks the beginning of the transition of Globe from a place of boom town survival structures (i.e. the First Courthouse) to a permanently settled community aiming at a sense of refinement and taste. After the courthouse was completed, many other new buildings were quickly built, which extended this sense of community pride.