

PH0351849

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

MAR 31 1976

DATE ENTERED

OCT 21 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**HISTORIC *nm*

\*\*\* Searcy County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Marshall

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

STATE

Arkansas

CODE

05

COUNTY

Searcy

CODE

129

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

DISTRICT

X BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

X PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

X OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

X YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

## PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

COMMERCIAL

PARK

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

X GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

MILITARY

OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Searcy County (John A. "Andy" Griffith, County Judge)

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Searcy County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Marshall

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Circuit Clerk's Office

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Searcy County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Marshall

STATE

Arkansas

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT

☒ GOOD

☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED

☐ RUINS

☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED

☒ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE

☐ MOVED

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Searcy County Courthouse in Marshall, Arkansas, was constructed in 1889. It is a two-storey-and-basement structure of native stone. Native stone construction was found primarily in public buildings and wealthy residences in the county at the time of construction of the courthouse. The building features a hipped roof of pressed metal with fairly wide overhang. Triangular dormers project from the center of the roof on each elevation. These dormers contain air vents in each gable end. All windows feature cast-stone lintels and lugsills and are multi-lite.

The building is rectangular in plan and rests upon a foundation of cast stone. It is situated on a 90'x90' tract of land in the center of Marshall's business district.

The facade (east elevation) is marked by a one-storey porch with a gable roof. The porch is supported by two square cast stone posts. The gable end of the portico is divided into four distinct triangular areas. The double-entry doors are paneled and feature a single pane of glass in the upper half. Over the doors is rectangular-shaped transom with four lites. On the first-storey level windows flank either side of the entry. Three symmetrically placed windows are located on the second-storey level.

The south elevation features three windows on both the first and second storey levels. Rectangular multi-lite windows are spaced irregularly at the basement level around the building. The west elevation is identical to the facade with the exception of the absence of a portico over the double-entry doors.

The north elevation contains the only addition to the building since its original construction in 1889. A two-storey, flat-roofed projection of cast stone was added in the early 1950's. This rectangular-shaped addition contains four windows around the second-storey level and two small windows on the first-storey level of the east and west elevations of the projection. This addition contains vaults in which county records are kept.

A central hall, ten feet in width, runs from the east entrance to the west entrance. Much of the interior retains a four-foot high wooden wainscoting, with the upper portions of the walls being of plaster. Woodwork is of oak and pine. Ceilings in the courthouse are twelve feet high. As with any courthouse of its age, the Searcy County Courthouse has been somewhat altered in the interior for changing office needs.

In good condition, the Searcy County Courthouse rests on its original site. Constructed in 1889, it is one of the oldest courthouses in the state, a fact which on its own makes the Searcy County Courthouse an historically significant building.



# 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 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 checked="" 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 1889

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The largest number of architecturally significant public buildings in Arkansas are the courthouses scattered over the state's seventy-five counties. A structural symbol of American government, the county courthouse serves as the center of local political activity. Often the largest and most costly building in the county, the courthouse is almost always a source of pride to the citizens who financed and make use of its facilities.

Searcy County was created in 1836 and named in honor of Richard Searcy, an attorney and secretary of the first and second Arkansas Territorial Council. The first county seat was established in 1838 at Lebanon, about six miles west of Marshall. It remained the county seat until 1855. County business was conducted in a private home until the first courthouse was built in 1842. The Lebanon Courthouse was a log structure and contained a courtroom, offices of the county officials and the jail.

In 1856 the county seat was moved to Burrowsville, named for N. D. Burrows who is believed to have deeded eleven acres for the courthouse site. County business was conducted in a store in Burrowsville until it burned in 1857. In 1858 a courthouse building was constructed.

In 1867 the Arkansas General Assembly changed the name of the county seat to Marshall in honor of John Marshall, one of the men who designated the area as the location of the new county seat in 1856. Marshall was incorporated in 1884. Fire destroyed the courthouse in 1886. The present courthouse was built in 1889.

Searcy County is mountainous and broken but also has a great deal of farming land. Apples and peaches are a standard crop, and stock raising is an important enterprise of the county. Black marble is one of the most important products of the county, as Searcy County is one of the few areas in North America with this resource.

The Searcy County Courthouse is a two-storey structure of native stone construction. The 1889 building features a hipped roof of pressed metal. Triangular dormers project from the center of the roof on each elevation. All windows feature cast-stone lintels and lugsills. The building is rectangular in plan and rests upon a foundation of cast stone. It is situated on a 90'x90' tract of land in the center of Marshall's business district.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

A Survey of Arkansas Courthouses. Compiled by the National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of Arkansas. Mrs. W. G. McDonald, Chairperson, Historical Activities Committee. Arkansas Room, Little Rock Public Library. Herndon, Dallas T. Centennial History of Arkansas. Chicago: Clarke Publishing Company, 1922.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	5
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5	3	3	2	2	0
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3	9	7	3	7	8	0
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C 

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B 

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D 

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Sandra Taylor, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

STREET & NUMBER

300 West Markham

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

DATE

3/9/76

TELEPHONE

501-371-1639

STATE

Arkansas

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL \_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_

LOCAL X

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Anne Bartley

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 3-9-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Attest: DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DATE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENTERED OCT 21 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE one

As one of the oldest courthouses in the State, Searcy County Courthouse is a significant historical structure. Resting on its original site, the Searcy County Courthouse has been in continuous use since its construction in 1889.

P. 3.31.76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 8 1976

DATE ENTERED OCT 21 1976

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

Searcy County Courthouse  
**CONTINUATION SHEET**

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

Due to the age of the Searcy County Courthouse and loss of records concerning construction, the builder of the structure is not known.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENTERED OCT 21 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE one

McInturff, Orville J. Searcy County, My Dear; A History of Searcy County, Arkansas.  
Marshall, Arkansas: The Marshall Mountain Wave, 1963.  
Works Project Administration. Searcy County, c. 1940, Archives, Arkansas History  
Commission.

Property

Searcy County Courthouse

76000467

State

Ark

Working Number 3.31.76.2908

**TECHNICAL**Photos 3Maps 1 2 cont sheets

Is there no record of the builder? <sup>See</sup>  
Cast stone cont sheet  
called hold

**CONTROL**

cm

OK 4.6.76

**HISTORIAN**

~~CALL~~ ACCEPT  
Lewinswood  
27 May 76

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

Too bad about all that asphalt. If ever there was a building that needed landscaping, this is it. They probably cut down all the trees to put in more parking meters. "source of pride"??

Accept  
D. Look  
9 July 1976

**ARCHEOLOGIST****OTHER****HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_

Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF****BRANCH CHIEF**

Accept  
Cole  
10-13-76

**KEEPER**

Wong  
10/18/76

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Entered OCT 21 1976Federal Register Entry 12-7-76

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

INT:2106-74





1. SEARCY COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
SEARCY COUNTY, ARKANSAS  
EAST ELEVATION (FACADE), VIEWED FROM THE EAST

- 1) Searcy County Courthouse
- 2) Marshall, Arkansas
- 3) Sandra Taylor
- 4) January, 1976
- 5) Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
- 6) East elevation (facade) viewed from the  
east
- 7) 1

OCT 21 1976

MAR 31 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER





2. SEARCY COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
SEARCY COUNTY, ARKANSAS  
South and West ELEVATIONS, VIEWED from the

- 1) Searcy County Courthouse
- 2) Marshall, Arkansas
- 3) Sandra Taylor
- 4) January, 1976
- 5) Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
- 6) South and west elevations, viewed from  
the southwest
- 7) 2

OCT 21 1976

MAR 31 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER





3. SEARCY COUNTY COURTHOUSE

SEARCY COUNTY, ARKANSAS

NORTH ELEVATION, VIEWED FROM THE NORTH

- 1) Searcy County Courthouse
- 2) Marshall, Arkansas
- 3) Sandra Taylor
- 4) January, 1976
- 5) Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
- 6) North elevation, viewed from the north
- 7) 3

MAR 31 1976 OCT 21 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

MAR 31 1976

DATE ENTERED

OCT 21 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Searcy County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

Marshall

\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Searcy

STATE

Arkansas

**3 MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE

U.S. Geological Survey

SCALE

1:24,000

DATE

1962

**4 REQUIREMENTS**

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES







ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE      ARKANSAS

Date Entered      OCT 21 1976

Name

Location

Searcy County Courthouse

Marshall  
Searcy County

Also Notified

Hon. John L. McClellan  
Hon. Dale Bumpers  
Hon. John P. Hammerschmidt  
Regional Director, Southwest  
Region

880      MMott/row      10/28/76

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Ms. Anne Bartley  
Acting Director  
Department of Natural and  
Cultural Heritage  
The Old State House  
300 West Markham  
Little Rock, Arkansas      72201

# NR Data Sheet

DATE: 27 May 76  
 Reviewer INITIALS: *[Signature]*  
 NR DOE OCT 21 1976

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER:

*✓ ① Searcy County Courthouse*

OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER

*Courthouse Square*

CITY, TOWN

*Marshall*

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

*3rd*

STATE

*Ark*

VICINITY OF

*05*

COUNTY

*✓ Searcy*

code

*129 ✓*

OWNER OF PROPERTY:

(Circle)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE)

N. ATLANTIC

MID ATLANTIC

SOUTHEAST

MIDWEST

SOUTHWEST

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

WEST

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR

☒ Substantially intact-1

☐ unknown - 4

☐ not applicable - 7

EXTERIOR

☒ Substantially intact-2

☐ unknown - 5

☐ not applicable - 8

ENVIRONS

☐ Substantially intact-3

☒ unknown - 6

☐ Not applicable-9

☐ Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION -

☐ EXCELLENT

☒ GOOD

☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED

☐ RUINS

☐ UNEXPOSED

☐ Unexcavated

☐ UNALTERED

☒ ALTERED

☐ Reconstructed

☐ Excavated

☒ ORIGINAL SITE

☐ MOVED

☐ Unknown

ACCESS -

Yes-restricted

Yes-unrestricted

No access

Unknown

historic district?

YES

NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT?

YES

NO

IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?

YES

NO

IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE:

YES

NO

Saved?

YES

NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- *COURTHOUSE*

now- *COURTHOUSE*

SIGNIFICANCE:

☒ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC

☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC

☐ AGRICULTURE

☒ ARCHITECTURE

☐ ART

☐ COMMERCE

☐ COMMUNICATIONS

☐ CONSERVATION

☐ ECONOMICS

☐ EDUCATION

☐ ENGINEERING

☐ EXPLORATION

☐ INDUSTRY

☐ INVENTION

☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

☐ LAW/Gov't/politics

☐ LITERATURE

☐ MILITARY

☐ MUSIC

☐ PHILOSOPHY

☒ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

☐ RELIGION

☐ SCIENCE

☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)

☐ entertainment

☐ health

☐ recreation

☐ settlement

☐ socio/cultural

☐ urban & commun

planning

Claims

"first"

YES

NO

"oldest"

YES

NO

"only"

YES

NO



ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:

architect/m.builder:

landscape/garden designer:

interior decorator:

engineer:

artist/artisan:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

personal

(label role

&

appropriate date)

events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1889

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS: 1950-53 addition

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

less than 1

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

2 stories with basement, rock-faced native stone  
square, 3 bays hip roof,  
small, wooden porches on cement pillars,  
cement block addition.

Rock-faced stone, 2 1/2 stories, ~~rect~~ modified rectangle, hipped roof with  
center <sup>side</sup> gables, front center entrance with hansom and small gabled porch; rear  
cement block addition, 1950's.

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

✓ Center of county government for more than  
80 years.