

PH 0047121

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Arkansas	
COUNTY: Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER FEB 23 1972	DATE

## 1. NAME

COMMON:

Washington County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

## 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

College Avenue and East Center Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Fayetteville (Township 16N, Range 30W, Section 15)

STATE

Arkansas

CODE

05

COUNTY:

Washington

CODE

143

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

(Check One)

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

ACCESSIBLE  
TO THE PUBLIC

- ☐ District ☒ Building  
☐ Site ☐ Structure  
☐ Object

- ☒ Public  
☐ Private  
☐ Both

- Public Acquisition:  
☐ In Process  
☐ Being Considered

- ☒ Occupied  
☐ Unoccupied  
☐ Preservation work  
in progress

- Yes:  
☐ Restricted  
☒ Unrestricted  
☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Agricultural ☒ Government ☐ Park ☐ Transportation ☐ Comments  
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Private Residence ☐ Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Educational ☐ Military ☐ Religious \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Entertainment ☐ Museum ☐ Scientific \_\_\_\_\_

## 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Residents of Washington County

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Washington County

STATE:

Arkansas

CODE

05

## 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Washington County Courthouse, Circuit Clerk

STREET AND NUMBER:

College Avenue and East Center Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Fayetteville

STATE

Arkansas

CODE

05

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

No Representation in Existing Surveys

DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FEB 23 1972

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Washington County Courthouse style is of the late Victorian period with strong influence of H. H. Richardson's Romantic Revival. It is a massive 4-story building with octagonal corner towers topped with conical roofs. A central square bell tower dominates the mass with its height. In 1966 the square pyramidal steeple terminating this central tower was removed because of structural weakness and has not been replaced.

The Romanesque details are strongest in the rusticated limestone entrance porticoes of the front and end facades. Short granite columns support the arcade of the main portico. A grand stairway approaching this main entrance was removed to accomodate a street widening in years past. This change and the steeple removal constitute the only major alterations to the exterior of the building. The western main facade is symmetrical with square-headed windows on the first two levels, round Romanesque arches spanning the third-floor windows, and cast-iron dormer windows on the fourth level, which is enclosed by the slope of a Mansard roof topped by an iron cresting.

Almost all interior spaces have undergone remodeling and/or subdivision and partitioning during the years. One major alteration is the dividing of the main courtroom into two spaces with a lowered ceiling and the enclosure of its gallery. The main hallways on all floors have been reduced by small rooms stolen from their original volume.

Noteworthy details of the original interior still intact include patterned ceramic floor tiles, stamped-metal ceilings in ornamental patterns, fine quality woodwork of the courtroom gallery columns and capitals, metal-work fireplaces in numerous offices, cast-iron columns and capitals of the first two levels, the turned-wood balustrade of the two-story staircases, and a large mural in early 20th century style occupying the corridor wall at second floor level.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



# 8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian

☐ 16th Century

☐ 18th Century

☒ 20th Century

☐ 15th Century

☐ 17th Century

☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1904-1905

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Prehistoric

☐ Historic

☐ Agriculture

☒ Architecture

☐ Art

☐ Commerce

☐ Communications

☐ Conservation

☐ Education

☐ Engineering

☐ Industry

☐ Invention

☐ Landscape

☐ Architecture

☐ Literature

☐ Military

☐ Music

☒ Political

☐ Religion/Phi-

losophy

☐ Science

☐ Sculpture

☐ Social/Human-

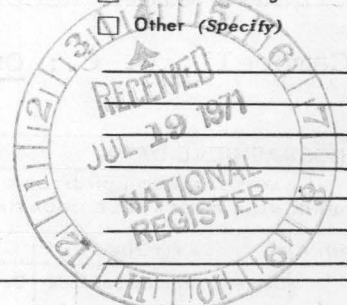
itarian

☐ Theater

☐ Transportation

☒ Urban Planning

☐ Other (Specify)



## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally this building provides Fayetteville as well as the region and state with a notable example of the Richardsonian Romanesque style which so strongly influenced the American scene during the last quarter of the 19th century. Though the style is somewhat adulterated here by certain eclectic details, the silhouette of its mass and vigor of its tower qualify it as a worthy specimen of the Richardsonian tradition.

The building is of prime importance as a significant element in the urban pattern of Fayetteville. The central business district is anchored on its eastern boundary by the height and mass of the building. The spire of the central tower continues to provide focus to approach views of the city, as well as a familiar visual orientation to pedestrians within the central business district.

The Courthouse tower joins with the towers of the University's "Old Main" (listed on the National Register) across town and a high church steeple rising between these extremities in providing Fayetteville with a rare collection of vertical elements not often found in communities of like size in mid-west U.S.A. To remove the Courthouse and its spire would affect adversely the environmental quality of this community.

Historically, the Courthouse was begun in 1904 and has served as the seat of Washington County government since its completion in 1905.

The contract cost of the original building was \$100,000, a sizable budget for any county seat in Arkansas in 1905. The architect was Charles Thompson, prominent in Little Rock during that decade. The general contractor became more famous than the architect. He was George Donaghey,

SEE INSTRUCTIONS





# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

County Clerk Record Book, # Q, Jan. 7, 1901 - Oct. 1904  
County Clerk Record Book, # R, Jan. 2, 1905 - Nov. 21, 1907

Circuit Clerk Record Book, # 102, page 187, 503  
Circuit Clerk Record Book, # 104, page 138, 552  
Circuit Clerk Record Book, # 105, page 70

Campbell, W. C.; One Hundred Years of Fayetteville

413  
120  
217m

# 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE							
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds			
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	36	0	3' 45"	94	0	9' 27"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one and one half acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

# 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: David Gibson, Keith Ray, Tom Smith, Alan Storm

ORGANIZATION: Fourth Year Architecture Students DATE: March 3, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: Department of Architecture, University of Arkansas

CITY OR TOWN: Fayetteville STATE: Arkansas CODE: 05

# 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

# NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

Name Dr. George M. Reynolds

Title State Liaison Officer

Date July 12, 1971

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Connally  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date FEB 23 1972

ATTEST: William J. Burley  
Keeper of The National Register

Date FEB 11 1972

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Arkansas	
COUNTY Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <b>FEB 23 1972</b>	DATE

(Number all entries)

**Significance Continued:**

who later was elected governor of the state. The last official hanging in the State of Arkansas was ordered and executed in 1914 on the site of this building.

The county has now outgrown the facilities of this building and expansion or new quarters will be necessary in the near future. Whether or not it continues to serve as Washington County's Courthouse, it's sound structure and architectural distinction eminently qualify it for an adaptive use.



72000212

Washington County  
Court House

RECEIPT PROPERTY STATE *Ark.*

DATE OF RECEIPT 7/19/71 YES NO NUMBER REGISTER NUMBER

FEB 23 1972



DATA PAGE ✓  
PHOTO (S) ✓  
PHOTO DESCRIP (S) ✓  
MAP (S) ✓  
MAP DESCRIPTION (S) ✓  
LOGGED ✓  
ACKNOWLEDGE 7/30/71

RESUBMIT

REVIEW *OK means 9/28/71*

HISTORIAN

~~ARCHEOLOGIST~~ *OK 5/30/71*

ARCHITECT *OK Chamber 10-1-71*

ASST. KEEPER

KEEPER *OK 11/3/72*

ENTRY

CHIEF, OAHF *OK 2-23*

EDITORIAL PROCESSING, EDITOR *Is there an earlier courthouse extant? OK CD 11/9/71*

Federal Register Entry 4-4-72 Date

Annual Edition Entry FEB 23 1972

Logged Card FEB 23 1972 WORKING NUMBER 7.19.71.2

COMMENTS:

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:







SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Arkansas	
COUNTY Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
FFB 23	1972

## 1. NAME

COMMON: Washington County Court House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

## 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

College Avenue and East Center Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Fayetteville (Township 16N, Range 30W, Section 15)

STATE:

Arkansas

CODE

COUNTY:

Washington

CODE

## 3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Tom L. Smith

DATE OF PHOTO: March 3, 1971

NEGATIVE FILED AT:

University of Arkansas Department of Architecture Fayetteville

## 4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Looking East down East Center Street at the front facade. The main exterior stairway originally ran east-west, but with the widening of College Avenue this stairway was cut off and a stairway (running north-south) on either side of the entrance was added. The bell cast in 1904 is readily visible. A trace of snow is on the roof.



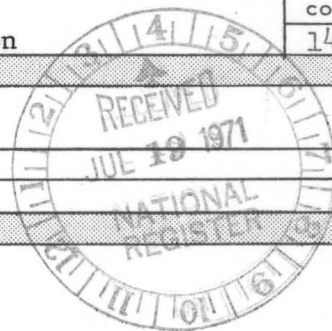
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**PROPERTY MAP FORM**

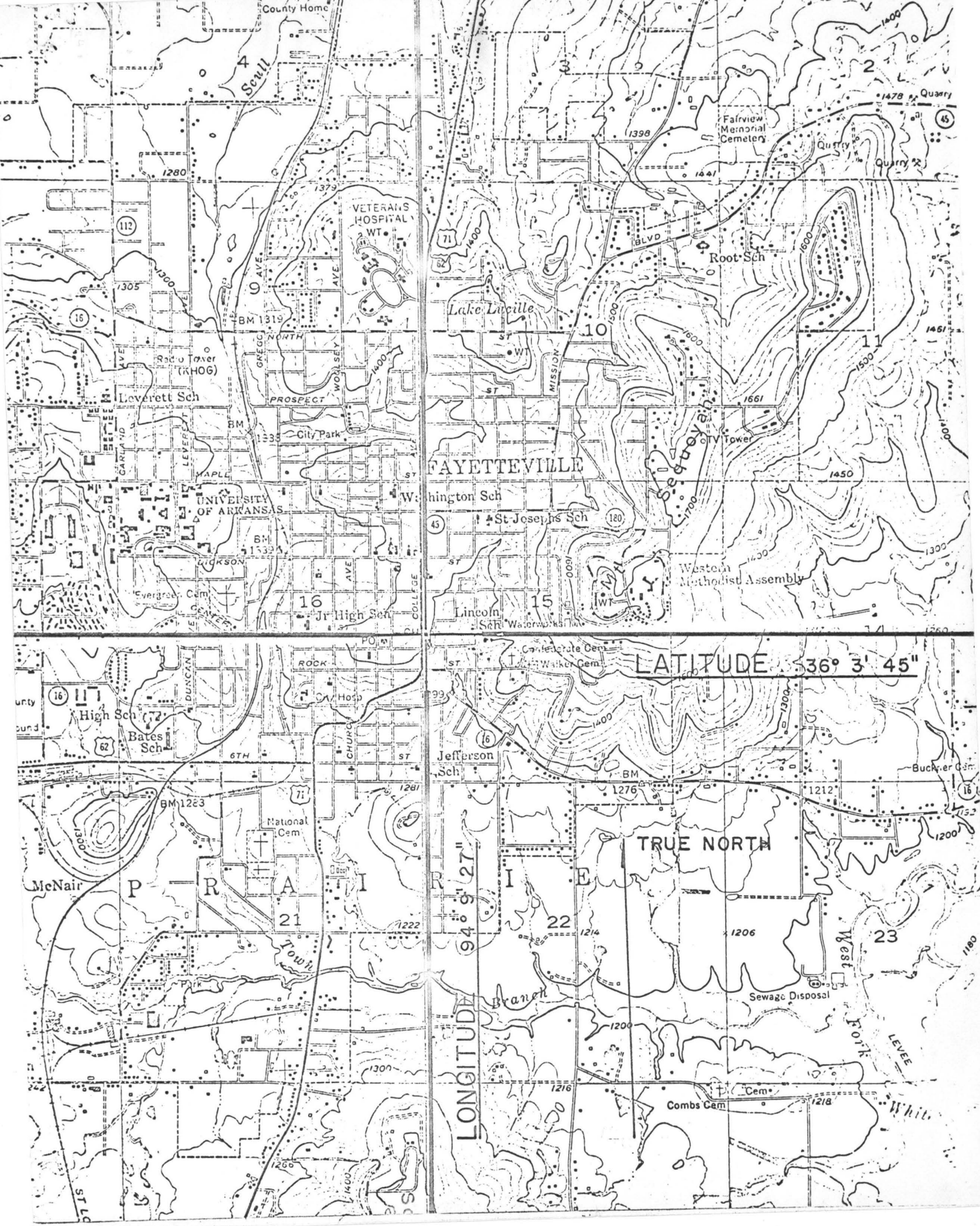
*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)*

STATE Arkansas	
COUNTY Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER FEB 23 1972	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Washington County Court House			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
College Avenue and East Center Street			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Fayetteville (Township 16N, Range 30W, Section 15)			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Arkansas	05	Washington	143
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE:			
United States Geological Survey			
SCALE: 1: 24,000			
DATE: 1958			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			







# ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

223 WEST THIRD STREET

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201

501 374-0375



July 9, 1971

Dr. William Murtagh  
Keeper of the National Register  
U. S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
801-19th Street NW  
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Mr. Murtagh:

Attached are National Register Nominations for  
the following properties:

Washington County Courthouse

Louisiana Purchase Marker

These nominations have been approved by a majority  
of the State Review Committee.

Sincerely,

George M. Reynolds  
State Liaison Officer

JEP:bp.  
Attachments

JUL 14 1971



February 22, 1973

Mr. Jerry Rogers  
Chief of Registration  
National Register  
National Parks Service  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Rogers:

The Arkansas State Review Committee has asked us to verify that the following nominations are in your possession and are currently under consideration by the National Register Staff.

	<u>Nomination</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date Submitted to the National Register</u>
1.	<u>Louisiana Purchase Survey Marker</u>	Monroe	7-12-71
2.	<u>Washington County Courthouse</u>	Washington	7-12-71
3.	<u>Jacob Wolf House</u>	Baxter	10-16-72
4.	<u>River Front Hotel</u>	Sebastian	10-16-72
5.	<u>Trapnall Hall</u>	Pulaski	12-27-72
6.	<u>Old Randolph County Courthouse</u>	Randolph	12-27-72



In order to keep our records current and readily available for reference by the State Review Committee, we would appreciate your responding by letter or memo concerning these properties. The State Review Committee is particularly concerned about the two nominations submitted in July of 1971. If they have been misplaced or for any reason you did not receive them please notify us at once and we will immediately mail additional copies.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gene Richardson".

Gene Richardson  
Arkansas Historic  
Preservation Program

FER:bjf

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ARKANSAS

Date Entered FEB 23 1972

Name

Location

Washington County Courthouse

Fayetteville  
Washington County

Louisiana Purchase Survey Marker

Monroe, Lee, Phillips Counties

Also Notified

Hon. John L. McClellan  
Hon. J. W. Fulbright  
Hon. John P. Hammerschmidt  
Hon. Bill Alexander, Jr.

Director, Southwest Region

HR

NRowland:mm 2/16/72

State Liaison Officer  
Mr. William E. Henderson  
Director  
Arkansas Department of Parks and  
Tourism  
State Capitol - Room 149  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201



H34-PHR

MAR 12 1973

Mr. Gene Richardson  
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
1023 West Third Street  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Mr. Richardson:

At your request, we have checked on the status of the six properties which you mentioned in your letter of February 22. The two properties about which the review committee was particularly concerned, the Louisiana Purchase Survey Market and the Washington County Courthouse, were both entered in the National Register on February 23, 1972. The other four properties, Jacob Wolfe House, River Front Hotel, Trapnell Hall, and Old Randolph County Courthouse, are still pending.

If some emergency arises in connection with one of these buildings, we will be happy to expedite the review of the nomination. As we have limited staff and have a continual influx of nominations the normal review process usually takes several months. We appreciate your patience.

Sincerely yours,

Charles A. Herrington  
Chief, Review Unit  
National Register

cc:

Mr. William E. Henderson, Arkansas Department of Parks & Tourism, State  
Capitol -Room 149, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 w/cy inc  
Director, Southwest Region w/cy inc

LI - Mr. Winge

PHR - w/cy inc

CSHULL:so-p 3/6/73

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN PHR

Green

See memo Phillips  
Washington County

H34-PHR

MAR 30 1973

Mr. William E. Henderson  
Director  
Arkansas Department of Parks and  
Tourism  
State Capitol - Room 149  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Mr. Henderson:

In response to your request for the status of six nominations we have consulted our files and have listed the properties below.

- |                                     |                                  |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Louisiana Purchase Survey Marker | Added to the Register<br>2/23/72 |
| 2. Washington County Courthouse     | Added to the Register<br>2/23/72 |
| 3. Jacob Wolf House                 | Received 10/19/72 in<br>review   |
| 4. River Front Hotel                | Received 10/19/72 in<br>review   |
| 5. Trapnall Hall                    | Received 1/3/73 in<br>review     |
| 6. Old Randolph County Courthouse   | Received 1/3/73 in<br>review     |

As you know, we have been behind in the review of nominations because of short staffing. We are beginning to catch up with our backlog and should be current fairly soon.

Sincerely yours,

Charles A. Herrington  
Chief, Review Unit  
National Register

cc:

Director, Southwest Region w/cy inc

LI

PHR, w/cy inc

KHOLLER:so-p 3/28/73 BASIC FILE RETAINED IN PHR