

PH0661171

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATA SHEET

RECEIVED JAN 27 1978  
DATE ENTERED JUL 31 1978

**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 **\*\***  
Navajo County Courthouse  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
Courthouse Square  
CITY, TOWN  
Holbrook  
STATE  
Arizona  
VICINITY OF  
CODE  
04  
COUNTY  
Navajo  
CODE  
017  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
4  
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Navajo County Board of Supervisors  
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN  
Holbrook  
VICINITY OF  
STATE  
Arizona

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Navajo County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN  
Holbrook  
STATE  
Arizona

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
DATE  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN  
STATE  
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

# 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		

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

The two-story local brick Navajo County Courthouse stands in the center of a block which measures 320' E-W and 264 N-S. The original building is 87' E-W and 55'5"N-S. When the courthouse was constructed, it stood alone two blocks north of the main part of town which stretched along the railroad. It was many years before the courthouse was surrounded by other buildings and paved streets. A 1919 photo does not even show trees in the square. However, the block is now well-filled with an unpaved parking lot in the southeast corner, a shady park in the southwest corner, a new wing on the west side, a small Chamber of Commerce office on the northwest corner, a 1936 WPA building for the justice of the peace on the north side, a late 1960s health office in the northeast corner, and a stone storage building on the east side.

The hipped roof main building has a tower with belled pyramidal roof and arched openings. Both the tower and the building have denticulated cornices. Second floor windows are arched but first floor windows have stone lintels and lugsills. The front entry is arched with stone voussoirs resting on a carved base. Coursed stone walls on either side of the steps have replaced the original low native stone walls which had crumbled. Each wall serves as a pedestal for a large piece of petrified wood, common in the area. The rear of the building has some brick additions for assessor's offices (northwest corner) and county attorney and juvenile detention (northeast corner). The original boiler room, furnace, and stack remain.

The front entry, centered on the south side of the building, leads into a vestibule with tongue-in-groove walls and ceiling. Woodwork throughout the courthouse is dark. The east side of the first floor houses the jail, which is a two-level metal and concrete area, and the sheriff's offices.

Double doors under a fan light lead from the vestibule to a central hall which has arched openings to a long hallway on the west and a stairway on the north. The east wall of the central hall has a mural of two Navajo on horseback, painted by two prisoners. The original wainscoting remains, doors are paneled with windows and transoms. The stairs have carved newel posts and turned railings. Offices in the southwest corner of the first floor served the treasurer while those in the northwest corner were for the assessor.

On the second floor, the east side is occupied by the courtroom which is entered through a double door with fan light and retains most of the original furnishings. The ceiling is pressed metal. Here, as elsewhere, the original light fixtures have been replaced by suspended fluorescent lights.

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The remainder of the second floor contains judges chambers (southwest corner), law library (north central), and clerk of the court offices (northwest corner). There are four vaults, two for the treasurer, one for the assessor, and one for the clerk of the superior court. Vault doors have the original paintings on them.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1898

BUILDER/ARCHITECT George L. Grosvenor

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The creation of Navajo County out of the western half of Apache County in 1895 grew out of a long-standing dispute between the 1882 railroad town of Holbrook and the early 1870s ranching town of St. Johns. Each community wanted to be the county seat and it was only after a long legislative battle and a filibuster that the matter was resolved by the creation of a new county. The perpendicular appearance of Arizona's northern tier of counties (see sketch map) arises from the necessity of sharing the economic benefits of the transcontinental railroad and of balancing the reservation land with taxable land. This meant that Apache County must be divided by a N-S line and not by an E-W line. The new county's 6,343,040 acres measured 50 miles E-W and 225 miles N-S. Will C. Barnes, who sponsored the bill in the territorial legislature, also selected the name for the new county to conform to the Indian names given to most of the other counties.

The earliest settler in the Holbrook area may have been Berado Frayde, who set up a trading post two miles east at Horsehead Crossing in 1876. In September of 1881, a temporary camp was established for the railroad two miles east of Horsehead Crossing. John W. Young, the grading contractor and son of Brigham, named the camp. Henry Randolph Holbrook (1838-1909), of Connecticut, was the first chief engineer for the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad. A few weeks later, the camp was moved to Horsehead Crossing and in 1882 it was moved to the present site. The town was platted in 1883.

The permanent town of Holbrook was founded as a railhead for supplies to Fort Apache but was also a shipping point for timber, cattle, sheep, wool, and hides. In fact, by November 1881, 300,000 pounds of wool had already been shipped from the temporary station. Holbrook is still the center for a large area and serves the Navajo and Hopi reservations, the Petrified Forest National Park, and several predominantly Mormon communities to the south and east. In addition, it caters to thousands of tourists along the interstate highway. The town has had a slow but steady growth from about 200 in 1884 to its present population of 5,000.

When Navajo County was created in 1895, the citizens voted whether to have the county seat at Holbrook or at Winslow, another new railroad town. Holbrook was selected and in April of 1897, the county supervisors advertised for bids for a courthouse.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

See continuation sheet

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.9 1/8 acre  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 2	5, 7, 70, 5, 0	3, 8, 6, 2, 4, 5, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All of Block 16 Town of Holbrook Zuck Addition - 320 feet E-W,  
 264 feet N-S  
*the portion of the lot on which all stands,  
 that portion of the lot on which all stands,  
 (Does not include other (hdg.) (Barham 3.14.78)*

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE  
 Marjorie Wilson, National Register Contract Historian

ORGANIZATION  
 Arizona State Parks Board

STREET & NUMBER  
 1688 West Adams

CITY OR TOWN  
 Phoenix

DATE  
 TELEPHONE  
 STATE  
 Arizona 85007

**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Rochelle H. Hall DATE 8-16-77

TITLE SHPO DATE ..

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

DATE 7-31-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 7-25-78

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Plans were submitted early in 1898 by Stewart And Crawford of El Paso, Millard and Grosvenor of Phoenix, Henry D. Johnson of Albuquerque, A.W. Gregg of Phoenix, Ralph Ramsey of Snowflake, and James Creighton of Phoenix. The plans of Millard and Grosvenor were selected and Grosvenor supervised the construction, making frequent trips to Holbrook for that purpose. General contractors M.J. Kennedy and J.C. Grimm of Flagstaff were selected to build the courthouse for \$12,000.

The land for the new building was part of the Townsite of Holbrook, all of which had been patented by early settler Pedro Montaña. Montaña became a prosperous and respected rancher in the area. The lot for the courthouse was donated to the county by Frank Zuck, whose father came to Holbrook in 1882 and was prominent in business and county politics. The deed to the county stipulated that the land must be used for a courthouse and must have a street on each side.

By June of 1898, the foundation had been staked and excavation begun. The stone was ready and the bricks were being made locally under the supervision of the contractors. The bricklayers went to work late in July and the building was completed early in January of 1899.

In December of that year, the new building achieved some notoriety because Sheriff F.J. Wattron, who was also a local druggist, sent out flippant invitations to a hanging. He was rebuked by Governor N.O. Murphy, who ordered a stay of execution. Even President William McKinley objected, as the story was widely circulated in the press. Sheriff Wattron then issued a new and equally impudent invitation. The hanging took place behind the courthouse on January 8th. The courthouse had lighter moments, too, in these early years, for it was often used for dances.

In spite of additions through the years, the courthouse was inadequate for the constantly expanding needs of the county and the new courthouse was built in 1976 south and west of town. The Navajo County Historical Society is now negotiating with the county to use the building, or part of it, as a museum.

Fortunately, the additions to the building did not alter the original structure significantly. Architecturally, the building is plain and undistinguished but the interior retains the original features almost intact so that it is itself a museum piece. Historically, the courthouse

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symbolizes Navajo County and all the political and economic factors basic to the development of northeastern Arizona at the turn of the century.

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