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DEC 11 2015

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Monroe County Bank Building

Other names/site number: MO0180

Name of related multiple property listing:

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 225-227 West Cypress Street

City or town: Brinkley State: AR County: Monroe

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,


I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B X C ___ D

	<u>12-2-15</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Arkansas Historic Preservation Program</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register *on 1-26-2016 due to weather related quit closure*
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

[Handwritten Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

1-27-2016
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: Financial Institution: Bank

COMMERCE/TRADE: Business

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Music Facility: Opera House

SOCIAL: Meeting Hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Prairie School

Craftsman

Colonial Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK, WOOD, STONE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has

Summary Paragraph

The Monroe County Bank Building is an excellent example of a two-story Prairie-Style commercial building with Craftsman and Classical-Revival detailing located in Brinkley, Arkansas. The building, which sits on the south side of West Cypress Street in the central business district of Brinkley, contains three separate storefronts at the street level as well as several large rooms and offices on the second floor. While the original Monroe County Bank Building was constructed in c. 1889, the building's current front façade dates from 1909 and was the result of the damage done by a powerful tornado that decimated the town.

Narrative Description

The Monroe County Bank Building is located on the south side of West Cypress Street in the central historic business area of Brinkley, Arkansas. It is a two story, red brick building designed in the Prairie Style with Craftsman and Classical Revival detailing. The façade includes decorative brick patterns around windows and vents, stone window sills, and stone inserts at the corners of the decorative brick borders. All of the windows are wooden, and are mostly intact, with some being covered with protective wood panels on the rear façade due to deterioration. The building shares walls on the east and west with adjacent buildings at the first floor level.

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Northern (Front) Façade

The first floor is divided into four separate sections, with two separate storefronts to the east, a separate double-door entrance to a stairway to the second floor, and another separate storefront to the west. The easternmost storefront includes a single doorway along the western edge of the storefront. Adjacent to the door, to the east, are three large glass panels. Above the door and glass panels are eight tall and narrow transom windows. Each of the transom windows includes a central narrow pane, surrounded by seven smaller panes, as well as a further divided decorative pane. This decorative pane is located at the center-top of each transom window. Each of the transom windows, large window panels, and door frames are composed of wood. This entire first storefront is bordered by a decorative row of header bricks.

The central storefront, divided from the eastern storefront and the stairway entrance by thick bands of brick, was constructed in a relatively elaborate style for the use of the Monroe County Bank. This storefront includes a large panel of glass, adjacent to the elaborate doorway. The door for the bank, situated to the western side of the storefront is flanked by two white, wooden columns on high bases. The two columns are topped by Doric capitals. The columns support an entablature that is only as wide as the doorway. This classical entablature is topped by a triangular pediment, with dentil molding detailing under the pediment as well as in the triangular opening of the pediment itself. The classical entrance is layered on top of the transom windows above the lower glass panels. There are eight transom windows above this storefront, with the same panel arrangement as the eastern storefront. A narrow glass panel fills the remainder of the storefront to the west of the doorway. The entire storefront is surrounded by a band of header bricks, repeating the banding around the eastern storefront.

The double-door stairway entry, to the west of the Monroe County Bank space is composed of a set of tall wooden doors. These doors include a rectangular panel of glass at the center, with a square panel of glass above. The square panel of glass is divided by mullions in a starburst pattern. The doors are topped by a rectangular marble lintel with the inscription "B · P · O · E". This inscription refers to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Above the lintel, two short tapered stone columns, with simple bases and capitals are stationed in front of a transom window. The wood transom window is made up of sixteen panes, arranged in an eight-over-eight pattern. Above the transom window, a section of brick has been laid in three columns of vertical stretchers, which is then topped by a row of headers. This decorative brick work extends from the top of the transom to a line equal to the top of the adjacent storefronts.

The western storefront has been altered with the installation of a mid-century modern aluminum storefront system, which includes a recessed entry to the west. This recessed entry door is flanked to the west by a small display window. The floor in front of the recessed door is covered with decorative white hexagonal tiles, surrounded by a border of red and white square tiles. To the east of the door, a single glass panel sits adjacent to the recessed door. The rest of this storefront is composed of two large glass panels, set at right angles to each other, creating the outside corner of the recessed entry space. Below the two large panels, are smaller, rectangular panels held by metal frames. A small portion of these frames have been replaced by later wooden frames. The areas below the display windows are covered by vertically ribbed

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corrugated metal sheets. Above the modern storefront, the transom area has also been covered by vertically ribbed corrugated metal sheets, and then partially covered with plywood panels. The historic transom windows may still exist behind the corrugated metal sheets. This storefront is also flanked to the west and above by a row of header bricks, similar to the brick frames around the other storefronts of the building.

Above all of the storefronts of the first floor, a band of common bond brick is framed by yet another row of header bricks at the top. This band is interspersed with seven sets of three-brick details, each arranged in the shape of a diamond. The banding divides the first story from the second story on the exterior and expresses the interior floor on the exterior of the building. The windows above this band have no corresponding lines or design relation to the windows and storefronts of the first floor.

The second story of the Monroe County Bank Building is symmetrical in design and includes a central section of five large, wooden window panels and a single narrow wooden window to the east and west. Then central windows of the second story are composed of a pair of vertical casement windows, each with eight small window panes. These two casements are topped by a transom composed of four narrow, vertically oriented panes. All of the five central window panels are identical, except for the easternmost panel, which appears to have been installed upside down. In this window panel, the transom windows are at the bottom and the casements are above. There is no internal reason for this window arrangement, and no reason has been found for this interesting change in the pattern of the upper windows. The five central windows share a stone sill and are framed by a course of stretcher bricks, with square stone insets at the top corners of the frame. Centered above the five central windows are five small rectangular vents, framed by header bricks with square stone insets at the corners. The vents are all covered with metal grills. The two flanking, narrow windows, one to each side, are identical. They are composed of three square panes with starburst mullion patterns in wooden frames. The windows sit on stone sills and are framed by two rows of header bricks, with square stone insets at the top corners. The rest of the second story is composed of red brick, laid in a common bond pattern. A simple metal cornice, with metal supporting brackets underneath, sits just below the roof line of the building. This cornice does not extend the full width of the façade by design, instead ending in line with the edges of the outermost edges of the first floor storefronts. The current cornice is an echo of the much more elaborate cornice that was on the original façade of the Monroe County Bank Building. The roof line of the front façade is capped by tiles and has a slightly higher section along the eastern and western edges.

Eastern Façade

The eastern façade is composed of a shared wall with the adjacent building at the first floor level. At the second floor level, four windows pierce the façade. These windows are all situated toward the south side of the facade, with no windows visible from the street view of the building. The four windows on this façade are all wooden windows, with the northern most comprised of a double-hung window. The southern three remaining windows are composed of two casement windows, each with eight panes, and topped by a short transom window. All four windows rest on separate stone sills that extend slightly from the common plane of the façade. The entire

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southern façade, at the second story level, has been covered in gray-white stucco. The façade's top edge stair-steps from the higher northern edge to the lower southern edge. This stair-stepping was a typical feature of commercial buildings during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, to support a tall false façade along the street-edge.

Southern Façade

The southern façade includes six windows and three doors at the ground floor level and eight windows at the second story level. Several of the window and door openings have been closed by wooden panels, though the frames and windows still exist on the interior. All of the original window openings are tall, with stone sills. All of the door and window openings on this façade are topped by shallow arches, composed of two rows of header bricks. The eastern side of the rear façade is covered in stucco, from the bottom of the second story windows to the ground level. This stucco surrounds three window openings to the far east of the façade, including two short windows over a large rectangular opening. The stuccoed area also includes a door opening just to the west. To the west of the stucco, at the first floor level, are three additional windows and two doorways. These openings are equally distributed along the remaining rear facade, with the windows flanking each doorway. At the second story, the eight window openings are directly above the lower floor window and door openings. The roof line is straight, and is topped by a modern guttering system. The fourth window from the east has been partially truncated at the second story level. Five rectangular vents with metal grates are located just under the roof line of this façade.

Western Façade

The western façade is composed solely of brick, and includes three wooden, double-hung windows at the second floor level. The first floor of the building on the west side is attached to an adjacent building, with a shared brick wall. The façade's top edge stair-steps from the higher northern edge to the lower southern edge.

Interior

The interior of the Monroe County Bank Building's first floor is divided into three separate spaces that run the full depth of the building. The central interior space includes a built-in vault, created for the Monroe County Bank. The late 19th or early 20th century tin ceiling of the interior spaces is also intact in much of the first floor. The interior stairway is enclosed, as a separate space from the other first floor spaces and entered from the front façade. The upper floor includes a large open room to the southeast corner and several offices and large meeting rooms filling the rest of the second floor. Early plaster walls and trim are still evident in many of the interior spaces.

Integrity

The main structure of the building, including sections of the exterior walls and interior support walls are original to the c. 1890 construction of the building. The front façade and upper story

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were substantially rebuilt after being heavily damaged during a tornado in 1909. The upper floor was also damaged during a fire in 1918. Portions of the upper floor were repaired; however, charred roof timbers and floor joists were visible in a recent repair of water damage in the second story lodge hall space. The exterior appearance of the building dates in large part to the 1909 rebuilding campaign. The only major alteration to the exterior of the building since 1909 was the modernization of the western storefront. This storefront was renovated in the mid-20th century with then modern materials and designs. The eastern storefront door was also replaced with a metal door. The exterior of the building has seen heavy weathering and an infestation of bees, including the loss of three brackets on the metal cornice. The interior has suffered some damage at the southeast corner due to water infiltration through a compromised roof. The roof was repaired and partially replaced in late 2015.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE
ECONOMICS
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c. 1889-1909

Significant Dates

March 8-9, 1909

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Monroe County Bank Building is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C**, with **local significance**, as an excellent example of Prairie Style commercial building with Craftsman and Classical-Revival details in Brinkley, Arkansas. The building is also being nominated under **Criterion A**, with **local significance**, for its association with the early commercial and economic history of Brinkley. The commercial enterprises that used the building from its construction until 1909 were important centers of business and entertainment, including the town's first bank and drug store. Developed by Major William Black and his family as a home for the bank he founded and an investment property, the Monroe County Bank Building is still an important landmark in Brinkley, Arkansas.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Summary

The Monroe County Bank Building is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C**, with **local significance**, as an excellent example of a Prairie Style commercial building with Craftsman and Classical-Revival details in Brinkley, Arkansas. The building is also being nominated under **Criterion A**, with **local significance**, for its association with the early commercial and economic history of Brinkley. Although the building was substantially damaged in the tornado of 1909 and the front façade rebuilt, the Monroe County Bank continued to use the building from its original construction in c. 1889 until the late 1930s. The other commercial enterprises that used the building from its construction until 1909 were also important centers of business and entertainment, including the town's first bank and first drug store. The building also housed Black's Opera House, the main entertainment venue for the town for many decades. Developed by Major William Black and his family as a home for the bank he founded and an investment property, the Monroe County Bank Building is still an important landmark in Brinkley, Arkansas.

Elaboration

Monroe County

Monroe County, named after President James Monroe, was established by the Arkansas Legislature on November 2, 1829. European settlement in the area had started as early as 1799, when Antoine Tessier and Joseph de Plasse, both hunters and trappers, were known to be living

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at the mouth of the Cache River, at a spot that would later become the city of Clarendon.¹ Prior to the formal establishment of the Monroe County government, the United States Congress authorized the creation of an all-weather military road to connect Memphis, Tennessee, with Little Rock, Arkansas.² This road, completed in 1828, also allowed for easy access to the area by early white settlers, creating a period of quick population growth for the area. The town of Brinkley, which is located halfway between Memphis and Little Rock along Interstate 40, had its beginnings in the creation of the Little Rock and Memphis Railroad Company. This new railroad would become Arkansas's first railroad line. The enterprise was promoted by Robert Campbell Brinkley, a leading resident of Memphis, Tennessee, and a promoter of westward development.³ The state of Arkansas presented a land grant in 1852 to the Little Rock and Memphis Railroad Company in northern Monroe County. Construction on the railroad began in 1854, and some sections were completed by the start of the Civil War. During the Civil War, gaps in the railroad between Memphis and Little rock were bridged by stage coach and steam boat relays. In 1870, work resumed on the railroad and section camps, including one at the future site of Brinkley, were quickly established along the proposed route between DeVall's Bluff and Madison, Arkansas.⁴ The small community of railroad construction workers at the future site of Brinkley was initially known as "Lick Skillet."⁵ By February 17, 1871, the railroad line was completed between Lick Skillet and Memphis. On April 11, 1871, the Memphis and Little Rock Railroad opened to through traffic for passengers and freight.⁶ The next year, Lick Skillet was incorporated as the town of Brinkley to honor Robert Brinkley, the president of the Memphis and Little Rock Railroad who had championed the railroad's creation.⁷

In 1882, the through station of Brinkley became a junction station, with the addition of the Texas and St. Louis Railroad line that extended from Bird's Point to Clarendon. The multiple railroads that converged and crossed in Brinkley made the area an important transfer point for goods and people as well as a major export point for the timber and manufactured goods produced in the area. By the first decade of the 20th century, the area had attracted multiple branch lines that allowed for the transport of timber and rice to several local communities for processing and distribution. An early resident of the town recalled that, due to the constant train traffic, "noise was an outstanding feature of life in Brinkley ... bells clanged and whistle blew and freights banged through the town at all hours of the night."⁸

¹Louise Mitchell, "Monroe County," *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. Central Arkansas Library System, 13 October 2015.

²*Ibid.*

³Jane Dennis, "Brinkley (Monroe County)," *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. Central Arkansas Library System, 13 October 2015.

⁴Lick Skillet Railroad Work Station Historic District (NR 6.1.1992), National Register Nomination, files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, Arkansas.

⁵Local oral history credits the name of lick skillet to the habit of railroad workers, who would retire for the night only after the "last skillet was licked." Dennis, "Brinkley (Monroe County)," *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. Lick Skillet Railroad Work Station Historic District (NR 6.1.1992), National Register Nomination, files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, Arkansas.

⁶Lick Skillet Railroad Work Station Historic District (NR 6.1.1992), National Register Nomination, files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, Arkansas.

⁷Dennis, "Brinkley (Monroe County)," *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*.

⁸Boyce House, "A Small Arkansas Town 50 Years Ago," *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* 18 (Autumn 1959): 291.

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Major William Black and Family

William Black was born in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, in November of 1835.⁹ During the 1850s, Black moved to Memphis, Tennessee, where he worked in ship carpentry and the grocery business.¹⁰ His business ventures succeeded in Memphis, even during the Civil War years. He eventually sold his enterprises in the city and moved west to pursue the lumber trade in Brinkley, Arkansas. During the Civil War, William Black had also served as a Major in the Confederate Army, and fought in most if not all of the major battles in and around Memphis.¹¹ Shortly after the Civil War, Major Black started developing timber and railroad related businesses in Monroe County, Arkansas. In 1870, William Black is listed in the United States census as living in Eve Township, near Clarendon, with his brother and as many as nineteen other assorted laborers.

Major Black married Bena Colless, a native of the state of New York, in 1862.¹² Their first child, Lena, was born in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1864.¹³ Two other daughters were born to the Black family in Memphis, Tennessee by 1873; Katie and Annie.¹⁴ The remaining Black family children were born in Arkansas, after Bena and the children had moved to the growing community of Brinkley to join Major Black, sometime in 1873 or 1874.¹⁵ The other children of Major William and Bena Black included Margarate, Nellie, Garland, Sarah and William. The youngest, William M. Black was born in 1884.

In Brinkley, Major Black founded a large timber business and railroad car manufacturing company with a Mr. Gunn. In the early 1870s, the partnership of Gunn & Black purchased several lots along the newly platted Cypress and Main streets, near the railroad depot.¹⁶ By 1879, this partnership also controlled a sawmill near Brinkley and a door, sash and blind factory in Memphis, Tennessee.¹⁷ Gunn & Black also opened a rail line from their sawmill in Brinkley to the nearby community of Cotton Plant in 1879. During the next five years, the partnership of Gunn and Black built several railroad lines, including the Batesville & Brinkley Railroad, to move raw timber and finished products from their various enterprises to other communities. The

⁹ William Black's birth year has been variously recorded as 1836, 1834, 1835 and 1838 in various sources. His tombstone states his death date as November 22, 1835. Calvary Cemetery, Brinkley, Monroe County, Arkansas.

¹⁰ "Major William Black – A Builder of Brinkley" in Holly Almond, *Brinkley Centennial Yearbook, 1872-1972*. Brinkley, AR: Brinkley Business and Professional Womens Club, 1972.

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ Lena A. (Black) Jackson, b. November 4, 1864, d. October 12, 1908, Calvary Cemetery, Brinkley, Monroe County, Arkansas.

¹⁴ Katie Raymond (Black) Myers, b. October 16, 1867, d. May 8, 1930, Calvary Cemetery, Brinkley, Monroe County, Arkansas. Annie A. (Black) LaBelle, b. 1873, d. 1895, Calvary Cemetery, Brinkley, Monroe County, Arkansas.

¹⁵ Margarate (Black) Emmons, b. June 21, 1871, d. January 25, 1952, Calvary Cemetery, Brinkley, Monroe County, Arkansas. Nellie (Black) Mitchell, b. 1874, d. 1960, Calvary Cemetery, Brinkley, Monroe County, Arkansas. Garland Black, b. September 25, 1875, d. March 1, 1934, Calvary Cemetery, Brinkley, Monroe County, Arkansas. Sarah (Black) Seehorn, b. February 28, 1880, December 5, 1944, Calvary Cemetery, Brinkley, Monroe County, Arkansas. William M. Black, b. 1884, d. 1922, Calvary Cemetery, Brinkley, Monroe County, Arkansas.

¹⁶ Bill Sayger, *A Brinkley Remembrancer*. (Brasfield, AR: B. Sayger), 2002. 39, 49.

¹⁷ "Brinkley Car Works & Manufacturing Company." Mid-Continent Railway Museum. 11 September 2015. www.midcontinent.org.

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partnership of Gunn & Black ended in the early 1880s and was succeeded by The Brinkley Car Works & Manufacturing Company, under the sole control of Major Black.¹⁸

The Brinkley Car Works & Manufacturing Company was described in the 1890 Goodspeed Biography of Eastern Arkansas with the following paragraph:

It at several times had large railroad contracts, building about twenty-five miles of the Little Rock & Memphis Railroad, and about forty miles of the St. Louise (sic.), Arkansas & Texas Railroad... they have a pay role of some 260 persons, 120 of whom are employed at the saw-mill in the woods, and cut down 68,000 feet of timber per day, the rest being employed in constructing railroads and in the general car repair shop. Every facility incident to this particular industry is embraced within the works, the tools and machinery being of the most modern and improved kind, and only skillful and experienced workmen are employed. This company ships about 220 carloads of lumber, consisting of flooring, shingles, moldings, lath, pickets, doors and window sashes, per month (sic.) to Memphis, Tenn., where they have one of the leading lumber establishments in the city.¹⁹

Major Black had a large part in creating and extending the four major railways that travelled through Brinkley during the last decades of the 19th century, the driving force behind the growth of the local economy. He also worked throughout the area in establishing multiple businesses. In the 1880s, Major Black was one of the area's leading citizens and he controlled a large percentage of the property in the business district of Brinkley.²⁰

On September 18, 1889, Major Black died during a surgical operation that was in relation to a large "carbuncle" on the back of his neck.²¹ At his unexpected death, Major Black was a director and stockholder in the Little Rock & Memphis Railroad, president and principal owner of the Brinkley Oil Mill Company, president and principle owner of the Brinkley Car Works and Manufacturing Company, principal owner of T. H. Jackson & Co, a large mercantile firm in Eastern Arkansas; and president of the Monroe County Bank.²² Mrs. Bena Black, widow of Major William Black, went on to manage the Black family holdings after her husband's death. She continued to manage the family businesses, including her husband's large real-estate holdings, until her death on February 24, 1912.²³ After her death, other family members,

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ The "leading lumber establishment" mentioned as being in Memphis, Tennessee, is the Brinkley Lumber Company, established by Major Black in 1884. "Monroe County," *The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas*, (1890, Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press), 1978, 547-548.

²⁰ "On Cypress Street, three fourths of the principal business blocks were owned by Mrs. William Black." *The Arkansas Gazette*, Little Rock, 10 March 1909, 6. Newspaper article – owning lots of property

²¹ "Monroe County," *The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas*, 518-520.

²² "Monroe County," *The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas*, 519-520.

²³ Almond, *Brinkley Centennial Yearbook, 1872-1972*. Brinkley, AR, 1972.

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including the husbands of the Black daughters would continue to run and/or work at the various family interests, including the Monroe County Bank.

The Monroe County Bank Building

The Monroe County Bank was founded in May of 1889 by Major Black as the town's first major banking institution. In the 1890 Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas, the Monroe County Bank is the only business listed by name in the growing business district along Cypress Street.²⁴ The Monroe County Bank building was most likely complete by 1889, as the bank is considered an established and thriving business at Major William Black's death in September of that year. The Monroe County Bank building serves as an anchor in the downtown, especially in the area just to the east of Main Street along Cypress Street. It continues to be the only two-story building on its block.

According to photographs of the structure from before the 1909 tornado, the original Monroe County Bank Building was of the same scale as the current building; however, the front façade had much more elaborate ornamentation. The first floor originally included three similar storefronts, with central doorways. The first floor also included elaborate pilasters that divided the storefronts into three distinctive bays with small bays in-between. Each bay of the front facade included large storefront windows with tall transom windows above. The first floor pilasters were richly detailed and supported a tall, simple entablature above. The second story includes a row of identical, two-over-two, double-hung windows. The windows were separated by either one or two pilasters with Corinthian capitals. Above each window was a small inset with ornamental garlands. The top pediment of the building was made up of stacked rows of ornamentation, including tiered layers of garlands and rows of rosettes. The upper cornice extended from the front façade and was supported by thick double brackets. The roof line supported two short, false, decorative pediments to the east and west and a central triangular false pediment, all of which were also richly decorated.²⁵

Adjacent to the Monroe County Bank Building to the east is a block of four similar, one story buildings, all built by the Black family in 1896. This block is mentioned in contemporary advertisements from the Brinkley Argus newspaper as the "The New Black Block."²⁶ Three other identical buildings were also located in the block directly to the east, on land also owned by the Black family, and most likely built by the Black family sometime in the 1890s. Many of the features of the westernmost one story Black buildings are still visible; however, the storefronts have been significantly changed and/or covered with inappropriate materials. The easternmost, one story Black buildings were significantly renovated, with their original facades now completely lost and replaced with recessed and angled storefronts and simple brick facades. One of the eastern Black buildings has also been covered with a large shingle awning addition. All of the one story Black buildings originally included large awnings, most likely metal, that stretched

²⁴ "Monroe County," *The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas*, 513.

²⁵ Photographs of the Monroe County Bank Building dating before the tornado of 1909 can be found in various collections of photographs and postcards at the Arkansas Studies Institute in the Butler Center of the Central Arkansas Library Center in Little Rock, Arkansas.

²⁶ "J. P. Smith: Hardware Store." (Advertisement). *The Brinkley Argus* (Brinkley, AR), early 1896 (date obscured).

Monroe County Bank Building

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from the front façade to the street edge. These awnings, evident in the surviving photos of the buildings from c. 1900, have been lost.

The interior of the Monroe County Bank Building's first floor is divided into three separate interior spaces that run the full depth of the building. The central interior space includes a built-in vault, created for the Monroe County Bank. The bank inhabited the central space in the building from its construction through the early 1930s. In the 1938 Sanborn Map of Brinkley, the Monroe County Bank has disappeared, with the space only labeled as a Store. The other two spaces, that flanked the central bank space, housed various businesses including a grocers, druggist, a pool room, a moving picture theatre, barbers, a bakery, the town's Post Office, restaurants, jewelers, etc.²⁷

Although the Monroe County Bank was the anchor institution in the building, a druggist and his pharmacy was located in the eastern store space from the building's construction until as late as 1913.²⁸ One of the earliest drug stores in the building was possibly the Myers and Sapp Drug Company, run by Harry H. Myers, who was the husband of Major Black's daughter Katie. Harry H. Myers would eventually take over as the director of the Brinkley Car Works and Manufacturing Company after the death of Major Black.²⁹ E. H. Converse, a druggist who arrived in Brinkley in the 1890s, also possibly ran the drug store in the Monroe County Bank Building for several years. Upon his arrival in Brinkley by train, he accidentally met a group of the leading citizens of Brinkley at the railroad depot.³⁰ The group, who included J. J. Farell, Sr., Dr. Ed McKnight, John Gazolla and Major William Black, insisted that the young druggist stay and open a drug store in the growing town. He was immediately successful, and by 1909, he had purchased a separate building down the street for his drug store business. Mr. Converse was responsible for commissioning several photographs of the destruction of Brinkley after the 1909 tornado wiped out a large portion of the town. He had the photographs printed as postcards alongside an advertisement for his business. He then sold these postcards in his store as souvenirs of the disaster to curious visitors.³¹ In 1904, the drugstore came under the ownership of Mr. Noah House.

Noah E. House and his wife Margaret and young son Boyce, moved to Brinkley, Arkansas, in 1904. Noah House had purchased a drug store in the Monroe County Bank Building and had arrived to take possession and run the business. Although not specifically trained as a druggist, he taught himself the trade and worked to fill prescriptions for his customers until 1907, when the family left Brinkley.³² Boyce House would eventually grow to become an important newspaper reporter, expert on oil and boomtowns, and humor writer in Texas. Late in his life,

²⁷ Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps: Brinkley, Arkansas. 1896, 1900, 1907, 1913, 1919, 1930, 1930-1938.

²⁸ Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps: Brinkley, Arkansas. 1913, 1919.

²⁹ "Monroe County," *The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas*, 513.

³⁰ Almond, *Brinkley Centennial Yearbook, 1872-1972*. Brinkley, AR, 1972.

³¹ Several of these disaster postcards can be found in the Disasters Photograph Collection of the Arkansas Studies Institute at the Butler Center, Central Arkansas Library System.

³² Henry A Wilks, "Boyce House and His Stories of Early 20th Century Brinkley, Arkansas." Box 15, Folder 170, Arkansas Small Manuscript Materials: Arkansas Studies Institute, Central Arkansas Library System, Little Rock, Arkansas.

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Boyce House wrote about his experiences as a small child in Brinkley, Arkansas. In his writings, he described his father's drug store in detail;

My father's drug store was much more than a drug store – a circumstance which was unusual in those days, although not now the case when one expects to be able to buy anything in a drug store from a pair of silk stockings to a spare tire for a tractor. Perhaps the most impressive section of the drug store – to a boy, at any rate – was the candy department. On the counter sat big glass jars of rock happen (sic.). In the case were trays and trays of delicacies. Among these were pp (sic.) breakers, the reason for the name being the huge bulge produced in the cheek. ...

In the next case were harmonicas (French harps), jews-harps, tops, marbles and toys. In the drug store also could be found what to some adults were the necessities of life; playing cards and poker chips. In the middle of the floor a revolving stand filled with paperback novels, at a quarter each, by Mary J. Holmes, the "Duchess" and Mrs. E.D.E.N Southworth.

And of course the drug store had row after row of patent medicines, with such intriguing names as Swamp Root, Wine of Cardui, and Black Draught; also Lydia Pinkham's Compound and a soothing syrup that, you were assured, "babies cry for"; syrup of figs, chill tonic and dozens more. It would seem that on those shelves there must have been a remedy for every ill that human flesh is heir to – but, if not, at the back of the was the prescription department...

About the drug store, there hung an aroma which was a mixing of cloves and cinnamon and quinine and oil of wintergreen and a hundred other scents. The most remarkable feature of this temple of wonders has, purposely been held back until last. It was-the soda fountain! If this does not seem a matter of special moment, please remember that Brinkley had not possessed a soda fountain until my father installed one. It had a huge mirror, with mahogany fittings, and the counter was of marble with veins of gray and pink...

Yes, my father was a pioneer in the field of business enterprise. Not only did he have Brinkley's first soda fountain, but the town's first cash register also.³³

Boyce House's father also provided space for a Russian watch repairman in his shop, after the man arrived in Brinkley speaking very little English.³⁴ After the House family left Brinkley, Mr. J. A. Douglass, another druggist, took over the drug store space in the Monroe County Bank Building. His store became known as the J. A. Douglass & Company drugstore and an image of the store still exists, providing a wonderful close-up look at the original exterior of the building.³⁵

³³ *Ibid.*

³⁴ *Ibid.*

³⁵ Henry A. Wilks, *A Few Events and Occurrences in the History of Brinkley, Arkansas and Surrounding Towns and Communities of the Central Delta Through 1935*, (Brinkley, AR), 1997.

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The interior fixtures of the Monroe County Bank Building must have survived the tornado mostly intact, because Boyce House also notes in his reminiscences about Brinkley that he had visited the town during the 1940s and the soda fountain was still in operation.³⁶ This soda fountain was most likely in a new location, as various businesses had used the former drug store space since the early 1910s according to the Sanborn Maps of Brinkley.

Black's Opera House

The upper floor of the Monroe County Bank housed Black's Opera House for much of its early history. The town's first and only opera house, Black's Opera House was named for Major William Black, the founder of the Monroe County Bank and the man behind the building of the Monroe County Bank Building. The first known mention of the opera house was in an advertisement from 1892. In early 1896, the *Brinkley Argus* and the *Brinkley Globe* newspapers carried large advertisements for elaborate productions at the opera house. Advertisements for various productions can be found in the surviving copies of the early Brinkley newspapers until early 1909. The opera house continued under the management of various individuals, including Major Black's son William, until the tornado of 1909 heavily damaged the building.

In his writings, Boyce House also discussed the opera house that inhabited the space above his father's store:

Brinkley's citadel of magic was the opera house, which was on the floor above my father's drug store. There, traveling troupes presented exiting (sic.) plays about murders, heroines tied to the carriage of a sawmill, and young heroes in homespun whose courage foiled the mustached villain...

And when the hero, after wandering through adventures in the outside world, came back to the farm of his boyhood and his gaze rested on the cottage and the barn, he would sigh and say, 'Ah, how the old home place has changed.' That would put a lump in your throat. Of course, he might be wearing what appeared to be the same pair of green-and-yellow socks he had on when he had taken his departure five years before, but we Brinkley folks were not ones to cavil.³⁷

The opera house not only presented plays and musicals, it also served as a venue for traveling lecturers, including prominent politicians and cultural figures. Brinkley's status as a transfer point for the early railroads in Arkansas made Brinkley an important early center of not only commerce, but entertainment. During his family's time in Brinkley, Boyce House was awed to find Frank James, bother of famous outlaw Jessie James, as a visitor to his father's drug store.

³⁶ Wilks, "Boyce House and His Stories of Early 20th Century Brinkley, Arkansas." Arkansas Small Manuscript Materials: Arkansas Studies Institute.

³⁷ *Ibid.*

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One afternoon, I noticed a stranger in my father's drug store. He had a clipped mustache, was wearing an overcoat and was talking while a group of men listened attentively. This much I had taken in when my father came up and told me I was wanted at home. It was not until the next day that I learned the man's identity. He was Frank James, brother of Jesse. He had lectured that night on the exploits of the James brothers and the penalty they paid.³⁸

The opera house may have continued to exist in a relatively reduced state after the building was repaired in 1909, but the upper floors were substantially reconfigured during the next decade. By 1913, the upper floors were renovated to include club rooms and a large lodge hall for the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Although heavily advertised in city newspapers prior to March of 1909, Black's Opera House seems to have been lost to the tornado that devastated the building and the rest of Brinkley, Arkansas.

The Tornado of 1909

During the first decade of the 20th century, Brinkley thrived as a commercial and social hub for the surrounding region. Large hotels and businesses had developed to serve the growing local population as well as the continual traffic of traveling businessmen who passed through the area. On March 8, 1909, the normalcy of the town of Brinkley was brought to an abrupt end. After a warm and humid spring day, it started to rain shortly before 7:00 p.m. After an initially gentle rain, the weather quickly started to turn increasingly violent, with heavy rain and high winds. A tornado ripped through the town, scattering and destroying many of the town's residences and businesses at 7:07 p.m., the time recorded on a ruined clock at the Monroe County Bank and on the watch of a traveling salesman that was blown into a tree during the height of the storm.³⁹ Immediately after the tornado devastated the town, the continuing torrential rain led to flooding throughout the area.

The tornado was later determined to have cut a path of destruction almost a mile wide, over a distance of nearly 16 miles, and passing through the very heart of Brinkley.⁴⁰ The town had been cast into darkness during the storm, as the electric company's plant had been swept away by the tornado.⁴¹ Almost immediately after the tornado passed, fires started in the piles of damaged buildings. Only the continued heavy downpour of rain kept the entire town from catching fire.⁴² By the next morning, the true devastation throughout the town could be seen. In photographs taken in the days immediately after the tornado, twisted piles of debris can be seen covering the ground. The few buildings with standing walls in the central business district lack roofs and

³⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁹ "In Three Minutes Brinkley Laid Waste," *Arkansas Democrat*, Little Rock, 10 March 1909, 1.

⁴⁰ Ray Hanley, "Death Wind Blows Across the Grand Prairie of Arkansas," *Central Arkansas Historical Journal* 1 (February 1997), 13. Contemporary newspaper accounts of the storm routinely referred to it as a "cyclone", a term that was often interchangeable with the less used term "tornado" at the time. In strict meteorological terms, the damage in Brinkley was caused by a tornado.

⁴¹ *Ibid.*

⁴² *Ibid.*

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many of the windows are gone, if not entire brick walls.⁴³ Many of the wooden frame structures in the path of the tornado were turned into twisted pieces of lumber and broken household and commercial goods. The newspapers of the time repeatedly trumpeted the miracle that many more people were not killed, based on the scale of the devastation, especially to the cities full hotels. At the final tally, 35 people had perished while nearly 200 people had been seriously injured.⁴⁴ According to contemporary newspaper reports that sought to account for the damage caused by the storm, nearly 80 percent of the town suffered severe damage and would require rebuilding.⁴⁵

For weeks following the tornado, the local newspapers printed tales of miraculous storm survivals, including one that occurred at the Douglass drug store in the Monroe County Bank Building;

A negro was blown from the Rock Island tracks over 150 yards into the door of Douglass' drug store by the tornado and dropped on his feet unscratched, according to a story told by Dr. O. B. Irvan, an eyewitness, "I was standing inside the door of the drug store a few seconds after the storm broke" said the doctor. "The cars on the Rock Island began rolling over like they were pasteboard. The air became full of flying boards and the like. There was incessant lightning. The Arlington hotel crumbled and then I saw a big object come sailing through the air from the tracks toward the door. I thought it was a log and dodged back. In a second it hit – a negro, hat in hand and eyes popping out. He came sailing in like a bird, or rather like a ghost, for he looked like one, and landed on his feet. For a few moments he stood there, evidently too frightened to move, and then as the storm lulled, he dashed out the door and was gone."⁴⁶

The Monroe County Bank Building, although still standing after the storm's passage, did not escape heavy damage. Immediately after the storm, since the Monroe County Bank Building was the largest building that seemed to be still standing intact, the local government, including the Mayor, took over the first floor store spaces in order to set up an emergency city office to organize the town's response to the tragedy. When the Governor of Arkansas, George Washington Donaghey, arrived on March 9th aboard a special train organized by the *Arkansas Democrat* newspaper of Little Rock, he was led to the emergency offices at the Monroe County Bank Building where he addressed the gathered crowd of locals. During this short address, a photograph was taken of the crowd outside the Monroe County Bank Building that was carried in the *Arkansas Democrat* then next day along with narratives and other photographs of the destruction of the town.⁴⁷

⁴³ Several of these disaster postcards can be found in the Disasters Photograph Collection of the Arkansas Studies Institute at the Butler Center, Central Arkansas Library System.

⁴⁴ Hanley, "Death Wind Blows Across the Grand Prairie of Arkansas," *Central Arkansas Historical Journal*, 16.

⁴⁵ *Arkansas Democrat*, Little Rock, 15 March 1909, 7.

⁴⁶ "Man Blown 150 Yards, Not Hurt." *The Brinkley Argus* (Brinkley, AR), March 1909.

⁴⁷ "In Three Minutes Brinkley Laid Waste," *Arkansas Democrat*, Little Rock, 10 March 1909, 1, 6.

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The *Arkansas Democrat* photo of the Monroe County Bank Building, taken the day after the storm, shows the front façade to be relatively intact; however a section of the second floor seems to have been heavily damaged near the center of the façade. The first floor shows several windows to have been lost. In the *Arkansas Gazette*, the destruction along Cypress Street was described in detail:

...three fourths of the principal business blocks were owned by Mrs. William Black. Four storerooms at the end of the block were unroofed and the interior badly damaged. The opera house, which was in the second story in the middle of this block, was completely wrecked. The Monroe County bank is located directly under the opera house and this was made headquarters for all the relief committees today, although the entire upper half of the building was wrecked and the entire building seemed in imminent danger of collapsing.⁴⁸

The building only served as the office for the relief committees for a short time, as later photographs of the area show that many of the city offices were moved into tents located in a park across the street from the Monroe County Bank Building.⁴⁹ A note in the *Arkansas Gazette* on March 13th, five days after the storm, states that the Monroe County Bank Building had been roofed, keeping the remaining structure of the building shielded from further weather damage.⁵⁰ The damage to the building must have been more severe than initially thought, because it was at this point that the front façade was replaced with the current façade. The new façade was very different from the original façade, designed in the contemporary Prairie Style with simple Craftsman and Classical Revival detailing.

Although the designer of the Monroe County Bank Building is unknown, the prominence of the Black family could have resulted in the repair of the property being directed by an architect or skilled builder. The front façade was rebuilt without the elaborate ornamentation of the original façade design. Instead, the overall form of the building exhibits the large pane of brick with subtle detailing of the Prairie Style, also known as the Prairie School or Chicago School Style, popular from the turn of the 20th century through the early 1920s. The most elaborate example of this style in a commercial project is probably the Merchants National Bank in Winona, Minnesota, constructed in 1912 (NR 10.16.1974). The Monroe County Bank Building is a simple version of this form, with large planes of red brick, interrupted by bands of decorative brick that express the internal floor division on the exterior of the building. While seemingly flat in construction, the decorative brick detailing around the storefronts and framing the windows and vent openings on the second floor echo the intricate but disciplined use of detailing in more elaborate Prairie Style architectural examples. The plain metal cornice, with very simple rectangular brackets, is also indicative of the Prairie Style, which promoted the simple yet solid craftsmanship of the Arts and Crafts movement. The Arts and Crafts movement was an international movement which started in late 19th century England and focused on traditional craftsmanship and promoted the use of simple forms in the decorative and fine arts. The Arts

⁴⁸ "Outlying Districts Bringing in Dead," *Arkansas Gazette*, Little Rock, 10 Marcy 1909, 6.

⁴⁹ Disasters Photograph Collection of the Arkansas Studies Institute at the Butler Center, Central Arkansas Library System.

⁵⁰ *Arkansas Gazette*, Little Rock, 13 March 1909, 1.

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and Crafts movement and the emerging Prairie Style were promoted across the United States through magazines and architectural pattern books that allowed architects, as well as the general public, to see the various types of architectural forms that were in fashion. The Monroe County Bank Building also features Craftsman Style detailing in the pane division and narrow vertically oriented transom windows. The rectangular stone lintel and simple stone columns over the upper story entrance doorway is also characteristic of the Craftsman Style with their simple geometric forms. The Craftsman Style was also popular in the early 20th century and was also heavily influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement. The Monroe County Bank entrance portico is executed in the Classical Revival Style, and is the only Classical Revival detail found on the exterior of the building.

Most of the commercial buildings in Brinkley were rebuilt after the storm, but none in the same style as the Monroe County Bank Building. The second story, which had been nearly destroyed during the tornado, was rebuilt, most likely with its current interior configuration of large hall and smaller rooms. The upper story soon became the home of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, who also allowed other civic clubs and organizations to use their club rooms and lodge hall for meetings and special events. Newspapers from the 1920s and 1930s mention the use of the Elks Lodge for various civic events throughout the years. During the 1960's the club rooms were renovated to house two dentist offices, which continued to use the space for several decades. The building is currently unoccupied and has been for several years.

Monroe County Bank Building
Name of Property

Monroe County, Arkansas
County and State

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ___ previously listed in the National Register
- ___ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ___ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- ___ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Monroe County Bank Building
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Monroe County, Arkansas
County and State

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): MO0180

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property >1

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 15 S | Easting: 665036 | Northing: 3861998 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Monroe County Bank Building
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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The West fifteen (15) feet of lot five (5) and all of lot six (6), block thirty-five (35), city of Brinkley

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This boundary includes all of the property historically associated with this property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Callie Williams, National Register Historian
organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
street & number: 323 Center Street, Suite 1500
city or town: Little Rock state: AR zip code: 72201
e-mail calliew@arkansasheritage.org
telephone: 501-324-9880
date: October 16, 2015

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

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Photo Log

Name of Property: Monroe County Bank Building

City or Vicinity: Brinkley

County: Monroe State: Arkansas

Photographer: Callie Williams

Date Photographed: August 12, 2015

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 9 : AR_MonroeCouty_MonroeCountyBankBuilding_0001
North (front) elevation, camera facing south.
- 2 of 9 : AR_MonroeCouty_MonroeCountyBankBuilding_0002
Detail of north (front) elevation, camera facing southwest.
- 3 of 9 : AR_MonroeCouty_MonroeCountyBankBuilding_0003
Detail of north (front) elevation, camera facing south.
- 4 of 9 : AR_MonroeCouty_MonroeCountyBankBuilding_0004
South (rear) elevation, camera facing north.
- 5 of 9 : AR_MonroeCouty_MonroeCountyBankBuilding_0005
East (side) elevation, camera facing northwest.
- 6 of 9 : AR_MonroeCouty_MonroeCountyBankBuilding_0006
Detail of central storefront (Monroe County Bank) on north (front) elevation, camera facing south.
- 7 of 9 : AR_MonroeCouty_MonroeCountyBankBuilding_0007
Detail of central entry to stairway to second floor on north (front) elevation, camera facing south.
- 8 of 9 : AR_MonroeCouty_MonroeCountyBankBuilding_0008
Detail of interior bank vault, Monroe County Bank, camera facing south.
- 9 of 9 : AR_MonroeCouty_MonroeCountyBankBuilding_0009
Detail of interior bank vault with safe, Monroe County Bank, camera facing south.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Monroe County Bank Building, Brinkley, Monroe County, Arkansas



Google earth

feet
meters

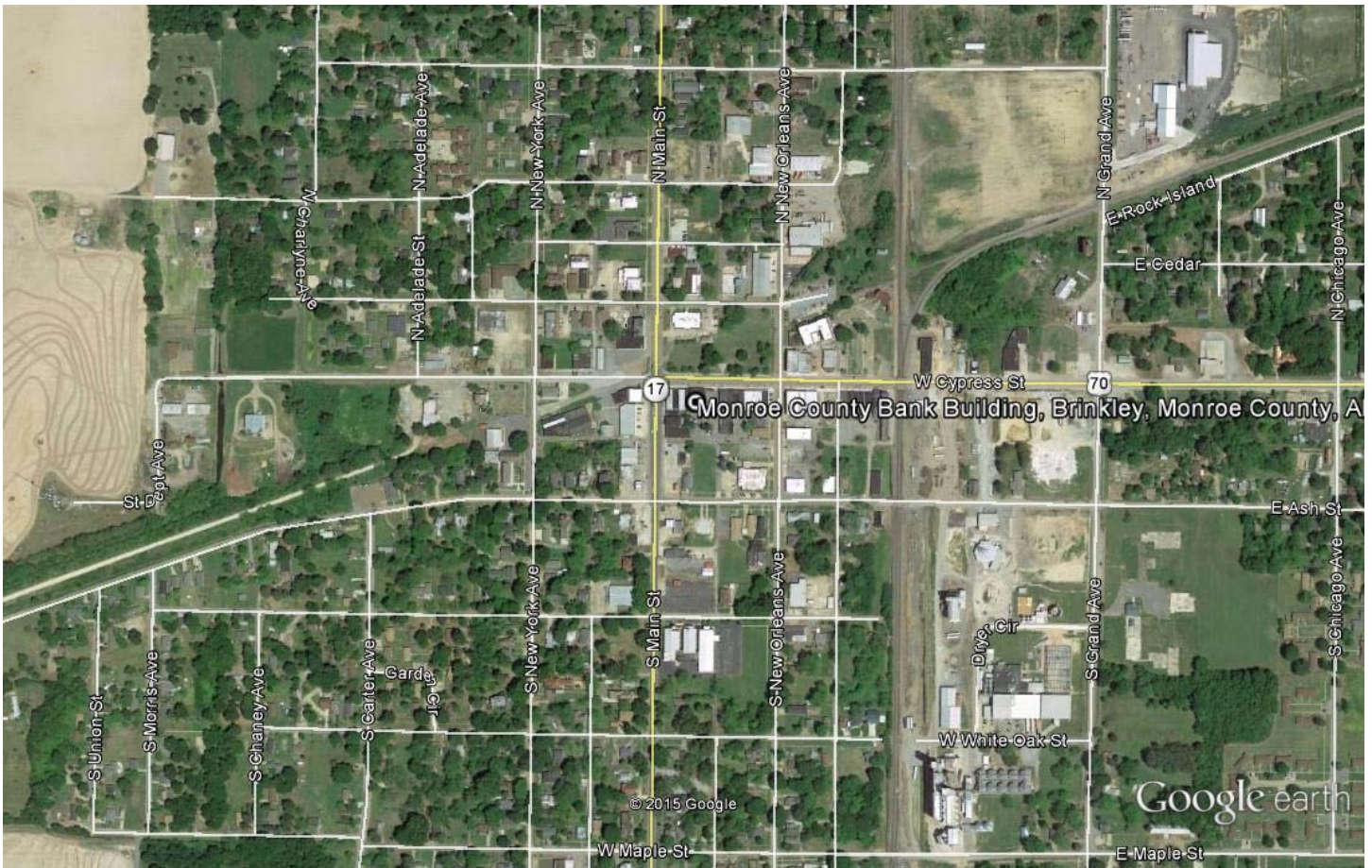


UTM

Z: 15 Easting: 665036 Northing: 3861998

NAD83

Monroe County Bank Building, Brinkley, Monroe County, Arkansas



Google earth



UTM

Z: 15 Easting: 665036 Northing: 3861998

NAD83



A three-story red brick building with a prominent cornice and decorative window elements. The ground floor features large display windows and a central entrance with a classical pediment. A white SUV is parked on the street to the right, and a person is visible near the car. The building is situated on a city street with other buildings visible in the background.

BLACK

5 W D E





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MONROE COUNTY BANK

1955

CUT-OFF SPRING

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Monroe County Bank Building

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Monroe

DATE RECEIVED: 12/11/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/08/16
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/25/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/26/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000995

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 1-27-2016 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Due to a weather emergency which closed the government 1-25 & 1-26, this property was automatically listed on 1-26-2016. The nomination had been previously reviewed & is acceptable.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A+C

REVIEWER J. Lubbut DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

DEC 11 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service



THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS
HERITAGE

December 2, 2015

Asa Hutchinson
Governor

Stacy Hurst
Director

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Fl.
Washington D.C. 20005

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural Heritage
Commission

Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars
Cultural Center

Old State House Museum

RE: Monroe County Bank Building, Brinkley, Monroe County,
Arkansas

Dear Mr. Loether:

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

If you need further information, please call Callie Williams of my staff at (501) 324-9789. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Stacy Hurst
State Historic Preservation Officer

SH:clw

Enclosure



Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program



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