

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

1621  
RECEIVED

OCT 22 1992

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name: Arkansas County Courthouse - Northern District

other name/site number: N/A

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number: Southwest corner of East 3rd and South College Streets

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Stuttgart

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Arkansas code: AR 001 zip code: 72160

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3. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property: Public-local

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

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>0</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

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#### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Cathryn H. Byrd  
Signature of certifying official

10-12-92  
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

=====

#### 5. National Park Service Certification

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I, hereby certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register  
\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
☐ determined eligible for the  
National Register  
\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
☐ determined not eligible for the  
National Register  
☐ removed from the National Register  
\_\_\_\_\_  
☐ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in the  
National Register  
Guymr. Lapsley 11/20/92

for Signature of Keeper Date  
of Action

=====

#### 6. Function or Use

=====

Historic: GOVERNMENT

Sub: Courthouse

Current: GOVERNMENT

Sub: Courthouse

=====

## 7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Classical Revival

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation Brick/Stucco roof Asphalt  
walls Brick other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

=====

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Locally.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1928

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Barrett and Ogletree

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.  
X See continuation sheet.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

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**Summary**

The Arkansas County Courthouse in Stuttgart is a two-story, structural brick courthouse building with a raised basement designed in the Classical Revival style. It retains virtually all of its original windows, and has otherwise suffered relatively few alterations on its exterior. It is in very good condition.

**Elaboration**

The Arkansas County Courthouse in Stuttgart is a two-story, structural brick courthouse building with a raised basement designed in a restrained interpretation of the Classical Revival style. Its plan is essentially rectangular, with low stoops projecting from the center of both the northern and eastern elevations of the original structure and a two-story compatible brick addition to the western or rear elevation. A single brick chimney rises above the roofline at the intersection of the original structure and the addition. The built-up/tar roof behind the raised parapet and the brick walls are supported upon a continuous brick foundation that has been stuccoed to resemble stone.

The northern and eastern elevations are very similar, in that both are dominated by a broad pediment and entablature capped by a stepped brick parapet, coped with concrete. Each pediment is fenestrated only by a small, central oculus window, with the surrounding tympanum being surfaced with stucco. Two small blind oculi, flanking the pediment, are also filled with stucco. The northern bay is accessed via its central stoop and recent double-leaf aluminum entrance. A pair of original one-over-one wood windows lights the second story above. The two window bays to either side of the entrance bay are recessed slightly behind raised brick pilasters that rise to support their capitals upon which rests the pediment. Each of the window openings on both floors is filled with a pair of one-over-one wood sash windows and ornamented with small square stucco inserts placed into the brick at each corner. The concrete panel above the doorway on each of the two elevations reads "Courthouse/Arkansas County/Northern District." The only difference between the two elevations is the fact that the northern elevation is a total of five bays across, while the eastern elevation is but three bays across.

The southern elevation is asymmetrically fenestrated, with three of the four window bays concentrated near the eastern end, and the fourth bay located toward the western end. All the window openings are filled with a pair of one-over-one wood sash windows. The western elevation is composed of the central projecting addition flanked on both sides by a pair of one-

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
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Section number 7 Page 2

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over-one wood sash windows on the first story with the metal fire escape rising to two separate single-leaf entrances on the southern side of the second story (leading to the vault area and the back of the original structure); the northern side of the second story is also fenestrated with a pair of one-over-one wood sash windows.

The raised basement on all elevations is fenestrated with pairs of smaller one-over-one wood sash windows that are generally placed directly below the afore-mentioned window bays, with the exception of the southern elevation, which features a row of these windows extending across the entire basement level.

The significant exterior detail is largely limited to the afore-mentioned pediment and entablature details, the small stucco inserts, and the concrete stoops.

The interior retains most of the original door and window moldings, though the walls have largely been covered with non-historic wood paneling. However, original newel posts and balustrades have also survived, as have their associated stairs.

Apart from the refinishing of the interior walls, the building remains largely as it appeared when it was constructed in 1928 and is in good condition.

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Section number 8 Page 1

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**Summary**

Criterion C, local significance

The Arkansas County Courthouse in Stuttgart, constructed in 1928 and designed by J. B. Barrett with the Stuttgart firm of Barrett and Ogletree serving as contractors, remains one of the finest examples of the Classical Revival style in the city of Stuttgart, and in the entire county. It is thus eligible under Criterion C with local significance for the quality of its architectural design.

**Elaboration**

Arkansas County was first formed on December 31, 1813 through the passage of an act by the legislature of the state of Missouri, of which this county was a part at the time. However, the first organized civil government within the present boundaries of the state had actually been established as early as 1804 -- after the completion of the Louisiana Purchase by the United States Government -- with the appointment of James B. Maney as the civil Governor to preside at Arkansas Post, a trading center on the north bank of the Arkansas River and the only such organized settlement within the state at that early date. The initial boundaries of Arkansas County included approximately ninety per cent of the modern land area of the entire state, with Arkansas Post as its county seat. Many counties were subsequently carved out of that enormous area, eventually resulting in the establishment of its current boundaries by 1871.<sup>1</sup>

As the local and regional importance of Arkansas Post dwindled in the early years of the territorial period, which saw the capital moved up the Arkansas River to the more central location at Little Rock, and as the county boundaries came to more closely resemble their modern configuration, the city of DeWitt (named for De Witt Clinton, governor of New York) became the natural candidate for the relocation of the county seat, largely through its central location relative to the shrinking county boundaries. The initial land for the town was purchased by investors in 1853, and the land was platted soon thereafter, with the construction of the first log courthouse buildings taking place in 1855 (located approximately one block from the current site). The county records were moved to it from Arkansas Post and the first probate and county court sessions were held in October of that year. This was replaced with a second, two-story red brick courthouse in 1862, which was in turn replaced with a larger red brick structure in 1893. However, its construction proved faulty, as cracks developed in the foundation, and it

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<sup>1</sup>Ironically, though Arkansas Post has long since ceased to serve as the center of county government, its most recent site and its earlier locations, both known and suspected, all remain within the drastically-reduced modern boundaries of the county.

**United States Department of the Interior  
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deteriorated to the point that it was finally condemned. The current courthouse structure was erected on the same site and completed in 1932.

DeWitt remained the sole county seat until the early twentieth century, which saw a confluence of important events that resulted in the dramatic growth of the city of Stuttgart, the bustling agricultural, commercial and transportation hub in the northern part of the county. Stuttgart's humble beginnings date to 1878, when the Reverend Adam Buerkle and his brother "M." (full name unknown, though he was reportedly also a reverend) and twelve families of German immigrants from Michigan, Ohio and Illinois settled the site of the former Gum Pond plantation, the roughly 7,500-acre antebellum estate established by the Mitchell family that included much of the Grand Prairie surrounding the modern site of Stuttgart. They were joined by sixteen more families in the next year, and by 1880 a post office had been established for the new town of Stuttgart, reputedly named by Rev. Buerkle after his birthplace in Germany. Stuttgart's fortunes were improved by the arrival in 1882 of the city's first railroad, the Texas and St. Louis Railroad. Though this did not run directly through the existing site of Stuttgart, Rev. Buerkle and his followers immediately realized the wisdom of locating adjacent to this important connection to the outside world, and the community relocated to the railroad line. This railroad line, running roughly east-west, was later complimented by the construction of both the Kansas City and New Orleans Railroad (later incorporated into the Rock Island Railroad system) that ran roughly north-south, and the short-line Grand Prairie Railroad that ran to the northwest. The city's first major sources of commercial income were cattle and hay, though the railroads soon brought several small manufacturing enterprises, such as furniture and woodworking shops, farm implement factories and an assortment of mills.

Ironically, the descendants of several of these early settlers departed Stuttgart at the turn of the century, as the agricultural potential of the Grand Prairie was thought to be "played out"; and indeed, the cultivation of the traditional crops of cotton and hay had sapped the soil of the required nutrients. It was within the first decade of the new century, however, that saw the first successful experiments in cultivating rice on the Grand Prairie with the harvesting of a three-acre plot near Hazen to the north. By 1904, local entrepreneurs worked with the railroads -- and the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad in particular -- to encourage more German immigration to the Grand Prairie to provide the manpower to transform more acreage into rice farms. The state's first rice mill was constructed in Stuttgart in 1907 -- the Stuttgart Rice Mill -- and by 1909, 27,000 acres of the prairie are planted in rice. By 1919, just ten years later, the total acreage of rice farms surrounding Stuttgart totaled 143,000.

The last years of the century's second decade witnessed the first surge of prosperity for the city;

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
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one of the city's banks, which in 1915 claimed total deposits of only \$118.00 could boast of over \$800,000 in total deposits as of 1918. After some drastic fluctuations in the price of rice that occurred in the first year or two of the 1920's, the price rose dramatically thereafter, and Stuttgart experienced a period of growth and prosperity that has largely continued to this day.

Unlike most of the other counties within the state that host dual county seats, the establishment of both northern and southern districts within Arkansas County appears to have been motivated by the vastly-increased level of civic and legal activity that attended the dramatic growth of the city in the 1920's rather than the approximately twenty-mile distance from the older county seat at DeWitt or any natural and/or seasonal barriers between them (though the Grand Prairie had a shallow water table and was prone to shallow flooding, particularly in the early twentieth century before the establishment of effective regional drainage districts).

The Arkansas County Courthouse in Stuttgart was constructed in 1928 by the firm of Barrett and Ogletree of Stuttgart according to the designs of the firm's designer, J. B. Barrett. Its design, which employs a clear though restrained Classical Revival vocabulary through the use of the projecting pediment and entablature supported upon raised brick pilasters on its two principal elevations, is the finest example of this style within the city of Stuttgart and is thus eligible under Criterion C with local significance.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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X See continuation sheet.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other state agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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## 10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>632980</u>	<u>3818330</u>	B	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
C	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	D	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>

     See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description:      See continuation sheet.

Beginning at a point formed by the intersection of the western edge of S. College Street with a perpendicular line formed by the southern edge of E. 3rd Street, proceed westerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel to the building's western elevation; thence proceed southerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the building's southern elevation; thence proceed easterly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the western edge of S. College Street; thence proceed northerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:      See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all of the property historically associated with this resource that retains its integrity.

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 1

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**Bibliography**

Goodspeed's *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas*, 1890.

Unsigned manuscript, National Register nomination file on the *Buerkle House* (Stuttgart, Arkansas County, Arkansas), on file at the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

Workers of the Writers' Program, *The WPA Guide to 1930's Arkansas*, with a new introduction by Elliott West; University Press of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas; 1987 (original copyright 1941), pp. 344-345.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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Name/Title: Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: October 12, 1992

Street & Number: 323 Center Street, 15th Floor Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Arkansas County Courthouse--Northern District

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Arkansas

DATE RECEIVED: 10/22/92  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/19/92  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/03/92  
DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/06/92

REFERENCE NUMBER: 92001621

NOMINATOR: STATE

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: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 11/20/92 <sup>Entered in the</sup> ~~National Register~~ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_  
REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_  
DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

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CLASSIFICATION

\_\_\_count      \_\_\_resource type

---

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

---

FUNCTION

\_\_\_historic      \_\_\_current

---

DESCRIPTION

\_\_\_architectural classification  
\_\_\_materials  
\_\_\_descriptive text

---

SIGNIFICANCE

Period      Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates      Builder/Architect  
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

\_\_\_summary paragraph  
\_\_\_completeness  
\_\_\_clarity  
\_\_\_applicable criteria  
\_\_\_justification of areas checked  
\_\_\_relating significance to the resource  
\_\_\_context  
\_\_\_relationship of integrity to significance  
\_\_\_justification of exception  
\_\_\_other

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

\_\_\_acreage      \_\_\_verbal boundary description  
\_\_\_UTMs      \_\_\_boundary justification

---

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

\_\_\_sketch maps    \_\_\_USGS maps    \_\_\_photographs    \_\_\_presentation

---

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



ARKANSAS Co. COURTHOUSE (NORTHERN DISTRICT)

STUTTGART, ARKANSAS Co., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER

AUGUST, 1992

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM SOUTHWEST



ARKANSAS Co. COURTHOUSE (NORTHERN DISTRICT)

STUTTGART, ARKANSAS Co., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER

AUGUST, 1992

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM EAST



ARKANSAS CO. COURTHOUSE  
STUTTGART, ARKANSAS CO., ARKANSAS  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER  
AUGUST, 1992  
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT ANPP  
VIEW FROM NORTHEAST

COURT HOUSE  
ARKANSAS COUNTY NORTHERN DISTRICT  
COMMISSIONERS

J. C. ROBBINS

C. R. HAM

J. W. SEARAN

P. R. McCOY

L. M. BENNETT

J. M. PARKER

COUNTY JUDGE

J. B. BARRETT

ARCHITECT

BARRETT & OGLETREE

CONTRACTORS

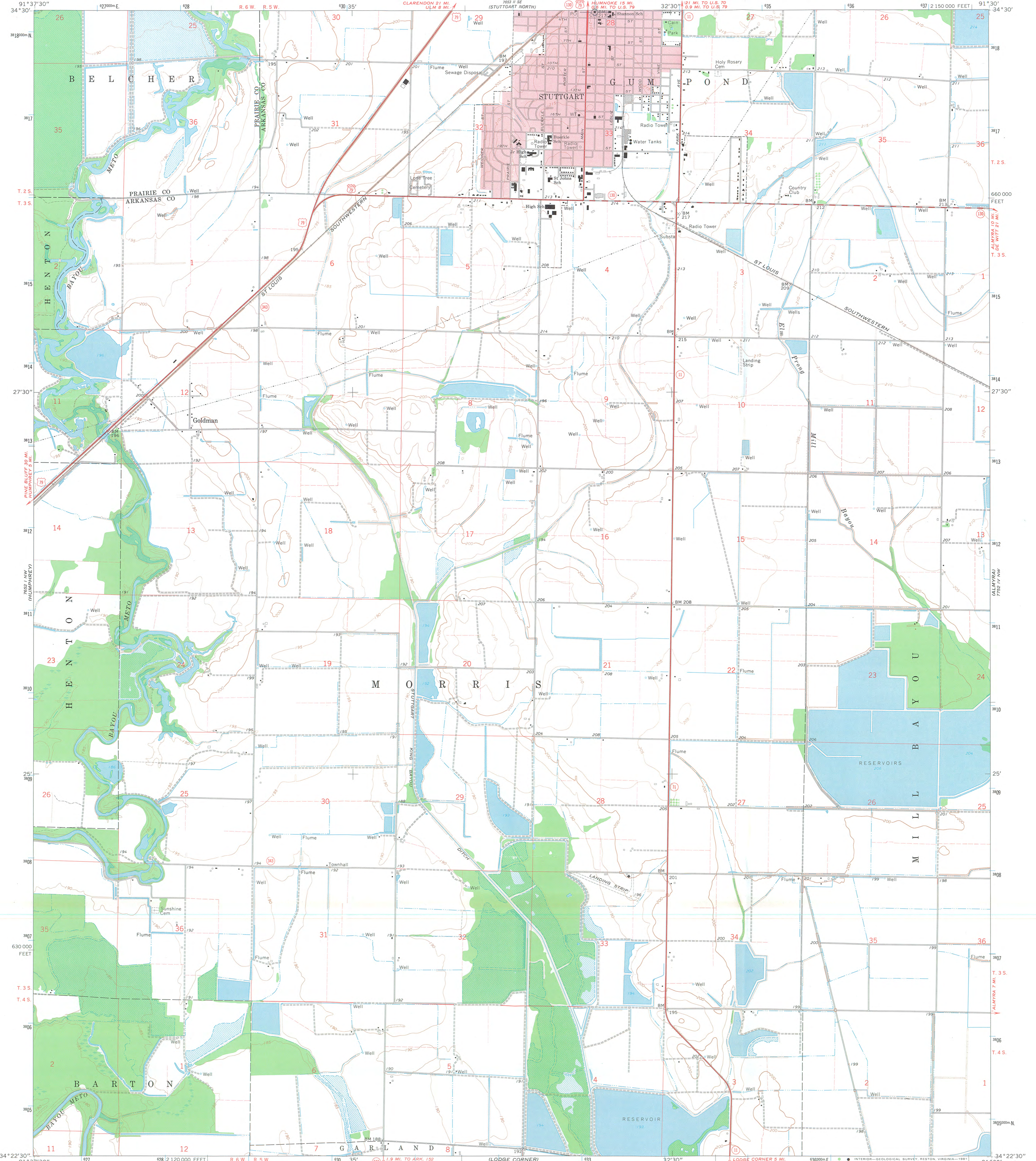
STUTTGART, ARKANSAS

1928

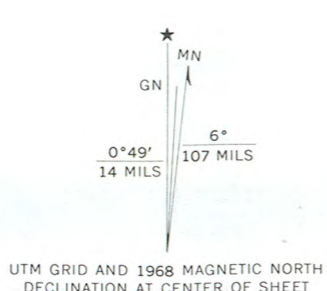
ARKANSAS Co. COURTHOUSE  
STUTTGART, ARKANSAS Co., ARKANSAS  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER  
AUGUST, 1992  
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP  
PLAQUE DETAIL



ARKANSAS Co. COURT HOUSE  
STUTTGART, ARKANSAS Co., ARKANSAS  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER  
AUGUST, 1992  
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT ANPP  
INTERIOR STAIRWELL DETAIL



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1968  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, south zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 15, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked  
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983  
move the projection lines 8 meters south and  
12 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks



SCALE 1:24,000  
CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



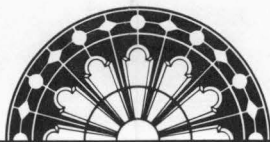
ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———  
U.S. Route ——— State Route ———

STUTTGART SOUTH, ARK.

N3422.5—W9130/7.5

1968

AMS 7652 I NE—SERIES V884



ARKANSAS  
HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
PROGRAM

RECEIVED

OCT 22 1992

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

October 13, 1992

Carol D. Shull  
Chief of Registration  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
1100 "L" Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Arkansas County Courthouse - Northern District  
Stuttgart, Arkansas County

Dear Carol:

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

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathy Buford  
State Historic Preservation Officer

CB:kg

Enclosures

