

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NORS use only

received APR 8 1977

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Lonoke County Courthouse

and/or common

2. Location

street & number North Center Street N/A not for publication

city, town Lonoke N/A vicinity of congressional district Second

state Arkansas code 05 county Lonoke code 085

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 Lonoke County

street & number Post Office Box 431

city, town Lonoke N/A vicinity of state Arkansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Circuit Clerk's Office

street & number Lonoke County Courthouse

city, town Lonoke state Arkansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
title County Courthouse Survey has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1976 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

city, town Little Rock state Arkansas

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY

Typical of the siting of Arkansas courthouses, the Lonoke County Courthouse is set back on the well manicured grounds of the traditional courthouse square where it exerts an appropriately monumental presence in the surrounding community. Built in 1928, the four story symmetrical brick structure with full basement, lofty parapet and cast stone details is the work of Little Rock architect H. Ray Burks. The architect drew from several stylistic phases to create this eminently Neo-Classical building whose details comfortably combine the vocabulary of Classicism with the decorative spirit of the twenties. Here, Classical scale and proportions, a colossal Doric order and a Georgian inspired principal entrance complement geometrically designed cast stone panels and decorative brickwork to contribute to the creation of a "modern" county courthouse building.

ELABORATION

The seven-bay principal (west) facade of the Lonoke County Courthouse is the most impressive of the building's elevations, successfully conveying the architectural eminence of the courthouse as a public building type. The building is raised above grade on its basement story with cast stone banding defining the ground floor from the first floor and a heavy cast stone base encircling the building at grade level. This arrangement contributes to the monumentality of the structure. The corner bays of the principal elevation both anchor the facade and frame the Classically-derived portico that articulates the building's principal entrance. Each of the corner bays features pairs of two-story tall, narrow round-arched openings consisting of six-over-six double-hung windows at first floor level and six-over-three windows with semicircular transoms in the second floor elevation. A cast stone moulding with articulated still defines the entire window element and cast stone panels of a geometric design featuring a diamond shape imposed on a background of receding rectangles differentiate the first and second floors. Decorative brickwork fills the narrow space between the two vertical openings. The brick veneer that flanks these central elements projects slightly further accentuating the corner bays with their pilaster-like appearance. These "pilasters" have cast stone bases and carry a paneled frieze. A series of two concrete panels, one visually dropping from the other, that terminate in a pendant drape from the entablature to embellish the pilasters. Two nine-light windows in heavy cast stone surrounds penetrate the ground floor facade of the corner bays.

The vertical rhythm established by the articulation of the corner bays is echoed in the courthouse's five-bay portico. Composed of four freestanding and two engaged two-story tall columns derived from the Doric order, the portico provides a dramatic entrance to the courthouse. A simple cast stone balustrade runs between the columns sheltering the narrow entry porch. The courthouse's centrally situated principal entrance is a focal point in this formative facade. A range of cast stone steps, slightly wider than the building's center bay, leads to the Roman-arched double-leaf entrance with fanlight transom. Cast stone moulding with geometric relief design and cartouche-decorated key-stone emphasize the principal entrance and beveled glass panels in an "art deco" design comprise the entry doors. Directly above the principal entrance a floor-to-ceiling

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

For HCRS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page 2

height Roman-arched window set behind a Classically detailed balcony, less than one bay in width, enhances the center axis of the facade. This second floor window, reminiscent of Georgian Revival style fenestration, is comprised of two sets of ten-by-ten casements surmounted by four stationary eight-light panels and capped with a multi-light transom. Fenestration of the second floor of the remaining four bays in the principal facade repeat this ambitious design while the first floor fenestration is composed of pairs of rectangular six-over-six windows. Decorative cast stone panels with a foliated design separate the first and second story windows but stretcher bricks defining the line of the Roman-arched window openings make each bay's fenestration read as a complete, vertical unit. Ground floor windows correspond to the design of the first floor rectangular windows and exhibit the same cast stone surrounds that appear in the lower windows of the corner bays.

The solid anchoring corners and the contrasting voids of the colossal portico are united by the paneled cast stone frieze that wraps around three sides of the building. The words "Lonoke County Courthouse" appear in relief in the three center bays of the frieze. Above the frieze, the building's deep brick parapet wall with cast stone coping terminates the front elevation. Again, the principal entrance is emphasized by the design of the parapet which breaks to form a segmental-arched pediment at the center axis of the building. This pediment is embellished with a cast stone cartouche bearing the building's 1928 construction date in relief.

The side (north and south) elevations of the courthouse are identical. Both are three-bay compositions with the central bay projecting to articulate secondary entrances to the building. Each entrance is set back under a Roman-arched opening flanked by Doric columns carrying an unembellished cast stone entablature from which the arch springs. Decorative brickwork outlines the top of the cornice line and follows the profile of the arch. A cartouche articulates the keystone of the arch and extends upward to penetrate the parapet of the projecting entrance, another arch which sweeps upward to create a rectilinear corner. Additional decorative brickwork embellishes the front of this parapet wall. This central bay also articulates the interior vertical circulation core with its two upper stories projecting from the mass of the building but not extending as far forward as the entrance. Two windows light the stair corridor. This bay terminates in a parapet with central stepped gable and cross-shaped cast stone panel.

The end bays of the side elevations feature a distinctive solid/void pattern formed by the vertical rhythm of brick wall and fenestration. Each corner bay contains two vertical openings with nine-light windows in the first and second floors and six-light windows in the attic story. Cast stone surrounds define the vertical openings with panels appearing between the first and second story and attic windows. The panels below the attic windows are exuberantly decorated with art deco motifs. Decorative brickwork forming a string of diamond shapes appears in the wall between the windows. As on the principal facade, the paneled frieze and parapet wall cap the side elevations. On the sides of the building, however, the parapet wall is embellished with cast stone panels and breaks and rises on center axis.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 3

The rear (east) elevation of the Lonoke County Courthouse is the least distinguished of the building's elevations and the only one that has been altered. Two projecting corner bays correspond closely to the design of the front elevation's corner bays. The rear bays lack the cast stone panels and lower frieze that are featured on the front of the building. Similarly, the recessed five bays of the rear elevation exhibit the same fenestration of rectangular windows on the first floor and Roman-arched windows on the second floor as appear on the principal facade, but cast stone panels and frieze are absent here. The rear entrance to the building has been closed off with brick. Only its fanlight transom remains intact over a small window.

In plan, the Lonoke County Courthouse is quite straightforward with central foyers, double-loaded corridors, and north and south stair corridors. Very few changes have taken place within the structure since its construction. Although the design of the interior does not feature the lively art deco elements that enrich the exterior, the entrance foyer and first floor hallways are richly, somewhat Classically, articulated. Cornice mouldings, paneling and Roman-arched woodwork are featured above a marble wainscot. The entrance foyer is also enriched with a polychromed tile flooring. The ground and first floors of the building contain office space and the Circuit Courtroom, which was renovated in 1978, occupies most of the second floor. The County Jail which was originally located on the attic floor of the Courthouse was relocated in 1973 and this space remains unoccupied.

Area of Significance—Check and justify below

<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1928 **Builder/Architect** H. Ray Burks

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Traditionally, the county courthouse has been a focal point for local government and political activity and a symbol of community identification and pride in Arkansas. Lonoke was established as the Lonoke County seat in 1873. Its first courthouse, a woodframe structure built in 1873, was destroyed by fire in 1881 and that building's 1883 replacement was torn down to make way for the present courthouse. Built in 1928, the Lonoke County Courthouse conveys the civic importance of the county seat even as the twentieth century progressed. In addition to achieving significance as the center of government for Lonoke County, an agricultural area in central Arkansas, the building is architecturally important as an example of the appropriately monumental public building type associated with the county courthouse building. The design of Little Rock architect H. Ray Burks, the courthouse reflects both the Classicism that dominated Arkansas' public buildings during the early years of the twentieth century and the decorative spirit of the architecture of the 1920s. Classically derived elements of the building, including the massive Doric columns of its front portico, its Roman-arched multi-paned windows and fanlight transomed doors, its paneled frieze and its distinctly elevated principal entrance, vest the building with strength and monumentality. These qualities are accentuated by the building's grand scale and rhythmic proportions that feature a distinctive solid and void pattern created by the relationship of brick walls juxtaposed against vertically oriented fenestration. Within this rigidly conceived Classical format, the architect has enlivened the composition with a variety of decorative cast stone panels whose design is well in keeping with the art deco taste of the era. The use of these decorative elements together with the architect's liberal interpretation of the Classical vocabulary results in a decidedly modern appearance for this county courthouse that is nonetheless in keeping with the traditional imagery of this building type in Arkansas.

2. Bibliographical References

Lonoke County Progress, a special newspaper edition produced in cooperation with and by the staffs of the Cabot Star-Herald, Carlisle Independent, England Democrat and Lonoke Democrat, June 7, 1973, p. 14d; Centennial Book, compiled by James B. Abraham, Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the City of Lonoke and the County of Lonoke, Arkansas.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2.98 acres

Quadrangle name Lonoke Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

UMT References

A 1 5 6 0 0 6 5 1 0 8 8 4 9 6 0 0
Zone Easting Northing

B 1 5 6 0 0 6 5 1 0 3 8 4 9 7 2 5
Zone Easting Northing

C 1 5 6 0 0 7 0 0 3 8 4 9 6 0 0

D 1 5 6 0 0 7 0 0 3 8 4 9 7 2 5

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

All of Block 13 and all of Block 20 in Wright's Addition, City of Lonoke

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ethel Goodstein, Architectural Historian; Don Brown, Historian

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date May 15, 1981

street & number Suite 500 Continental Building telephone (501) 371-2763

city or town Little Rock state Arkansas

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title SAPO date 3-5-82

For HCRS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Property: Lonoke County Courthouse
State, County: Arkansas, Lonoke
Federal Agency: _____

Working No. 3.24-82-901
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.1.82
Date Due: 4/22/82-5/8/82
Action: ☐ ACCEPT ☒ RETURN 4/22/82
☐ REJECT

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

photos ☒
maps ☒

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
☐ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: ☒ technical corrections cited below
☐ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition	Accessible	

Please fill in - if not applicable mark 'NA'

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

for NPS use only

8. 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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UNIT References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

Title _____

Date _____

13. Other

- _____ Maps
- _____ Photographs
- _____ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Melanie Byers

Signed _____

Date _____

4/20/82

Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received MAR 24 1982

date entered JUN 8 1982

1. Name

historic Lonoke County Courthouse

and/or common

2. Location

street & number North Center Street N/A not for publication

city, town Lonoke N/A vicinity of congressional district Second

state Arkansas code 05 county Lonoke code 085

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Lonoke County

street & number Post Office Box 431

city, town Lonoke N/A vicinity of state Arkansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Circuit Clerk's Office

street & number Lonoke County Courthouse

city, town Lonoke state Arkansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
title County Courthouse Survey has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1976 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

city, town Little Rock state Arkansas

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY

Typical of the siting of Arkansas courthouses, the Lonoke County Courthouse is set back on the well manicured grounds of the traditional courthouse square where it exerts an appropriately monumental presence in the surrounding community. Built in 1928, the four story symmetrical brick structure with full basement, lofty parapet and cast stone details is the work of Little Rock architect H. Ray Burks. The architect drew from several stylistic phases to create this eminently Neo-Classical building whose details comfortably combine the vocabulary of Classicism with the decorative spirit of the twenties. Here, Classical scale and proportions, a colossal Doric order and a Georgian inspired principal entrance complement geometrically designed cast stone panels and decorative brickwork to contribute to the creation of a "modern" county courthouse building.

ELABORATION

The seven-bay principal (west) facade of the Lonoke County Courthouse is the most impressive of the building's elevations, successfully conveying the architectural eminence of the courthouse as a public building type. The building is raised above grade on its basement story with cast stone banding defining the ground floor from the first floor and a heavy cast stone base encircling the building at grade level. This arrangement contributes to the monumentality of the structure. The corner bays of the principal elevation both anchor the facade and frame the Classically-derived portico that articulates the building's principal entrance. Each of the corner bays features pairs of two-story tall, narrow round-arched openings consisting of six-over-six double-hung windows at first-floor level and six-over-three windows with semicircular transoms in the second floor elevation. A cast stone moulding with articulated still defines the entire window element and cast stone panels of a geometric design featuring a diamond shape imposed on a background of receding rectangles differentiate the first and second floors. Decorative brickwork fills the narrow space between the two vertical openings. The brick veneer that flanks these central elements projects slightly further accentuating the corner bays with their pilaster-like appearance. These "pilasters" have cast stone bases and carry a paneled frieze. A series of two concrete panels, one visually dropping from the other, that terminate in a pendant drape from the entablature to embellish the pilasters. Two nine-light windows in heavy cast stone surrounds penetrate the ground floor facade of the corner bays.

The vertical rhythm established by the articulation of the corner bays is echoed in the courthouse's five-bay portico. Composed of four freestanding and two engaged two-story tall columns derived from the Doric order, the portico provides a dramatic entrance to the courthouse. A simple cast stone balustrade runs between the columns sheltering the narrow entry porch. The courthouse's centrally situated principal entrance is a focal point in this formative facade. A range of cast stone steps, slightly wider than the building's center bay, leads to the Roman-arched double-leaf entrance with fanlight transom. Cast stone moulding with geometric relief design and cartouche decorated key-stone emphasize the principal entrance and beveled glass panels in an "art deco" design comprise the entry doors. Directly above the principal entrance a floor-to-ceiling

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received MAY 25 1982

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page 2

height Roman-arched window set behind a Classically detailed balcony, less than one bay in width, enhances the center axis of the facade. This second floor window, reminiscent of Georgian Revival style fenestration, is comprised of two sets of ten-by-ten casements surmounted by four stationary eight-light panels and capped with a multi-light transom. Fenestration of the second floor of the remaining four bays in the principal facade repeat this ambitious design while the first floor fenestration is composed of pairs of rectangular six-over-six windows. Decorative cast stone panels with a foliated design separate the first and second story windows but stretcher bricks defining the line of the Roman-arched window openings make each bay's fenestration read as a complete, vertical unit. Ground floor windows correspond to the design of the first floor rectangular windows and exhibit the same cast stone surrounds that appear in the lower windows of the corner bays.

The solid anchoring corners and the contrasting voids of the colossal portico are united by the paneled cast stone frieze that wraps around three sides of the building. The words "Lonoke County Courthouse" appear in relief in the three center bays of the frieze. Above the frieze, the building's deep brick parapet wall with cast stone coping terminates the front elevation. Again, the principal entrance is emphasized by the design of the parapet which breaks to form a segmental-arched pediment at the center axis of the building. This pediment is embellished with a cast stone cartouche bearing the building's 1928 construction date in relief.

The side (north and south) elevations of the courthouse are identical. Both are three-bay compositions with the central bay projecting to articulate secondary entrances to the building. Each entrance is set back under a Roman-arched opening flanked by Doric columns carrying an unembellished cast stone entablature from which the arch springs. Decorative brickwork outlines the top of the cornice line and follows the profile of the arch. A cartouche articulates the keystone of the arch and extends upward to penetrate the parapet of the projecting entrance, another arch which sweeps upward to create a rectilinear corner. Additional decorative brickwork embellishes the front of this parapet wall. This central bay also articulates the interior vertical circulation core with its two upper stories projecting from the mass of the building but not extending as far forward as the entrance. Two windows light the stair corridor. This bay terminates in a parapet with central stepped gable and cross-shaped cast stone panel.

The end bays of the side elevations feature a distinctive solid/void pattern formed by the vertical rhythm of brick wall and fenestration. Each corner bay contains two vertical openings with nine-light windows in the first and second floors and six-light windows in the attic story. Cast stone surrounds define the vertical openings with panels appearing between the first and second story and attic windows. The panels below the attic windows are exuberantly decorated with art deco motifs. Decorative brickwork forming a string of diamond shapes appears in the wall between the windows. As on the principal facade, the paneled frieze and parapet wall cap the side elevations. On the sides of the building, however, the parapet wall is embellished with cast stone panels and breaks and rises on center axis.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received MAY 25 1982

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 3

The rear (east) elevation of the Lonoke County Courthouse is the least distinguished of the building's elevations and the only one that has been altered. Two projecting corner bays correspond closely to the design of the front elevation's corner bays. The rear bays lack the cast stone panels and lower frieze that are featured on the front of the building. Similarly, the recessed five bays of the rear elevation exhibit the same fenestration of rectangular windows on the first floor and Roman-arched windows on the second floor as appear on the principal facade, but cast stone panels and frieze are absent here. The rear entrance to the building has been closed off with brick. Only its fanlight transom remains intact over a small window.

In plan, the Lonoke County Courthouse is quite straightforward with central foyers, double-loaded corridors, and north and south stair corridors. Very few changes have taken place within the structure since its construction. Although the design of the interior does not feature the lively art deco elements that enrich the exterior, the entrance foyer and first floor hallways are richly, somewhat Classically, articulated. Cornice mouldings, paneling and Roman-arched woodwork are featured above a marble wainscot. The entrance foyer is also enriched with a polychromed tile flooring. The ground and first floors of the building contain office space and the Circuit Courtroom, which was renovated in 1978, occupies most of the second floor. The County Jail which was originally located on the attic floor of the Courthouse was relocated in 1973 and this space remains unoccupied.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1928

Builder/Architect H. Ray Burks

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Traditionally, the county courthouse has been a focal point for local government and political activity and a symbol of community identification and pride in Arkansas. Lonoke was established as the Lonoke County seat in 1873. Its first courthouse, a woodframe structure built in 1873, was destroyed by fire in 1881 and that building's 1883 replacement was torn down to make way for the present courthouse. Built in 1928, the Lonoke County Courthouse conveys the civic importance of the county seat even as the twentieth century progressed. In addition to achieving significance as the center of government for Lonoke County, an agricultural area in central Arkansas, the building is architecturally important as an example of the appropriately monumental public building type associated with the county courthouse building. The design of Little Rock architect H. Ray Burks, the courthouse reflects both the Classicism that dominated Arkansas' public buildings during the early years of the twentieth century and the decorative spirit of the architecture of the 1920s. Classically derived elements of the building, including the massive Doric columns of its front portico, its Roman-arched multi-paned windows and fanlight transomed doors, its paneled frieze and its distinctly elevated principal entrance, vest the building with strength and monumentality. These qualities are accentuated by the building's grand scale and rhythmic proportions that feature a distinctive solid and void pattern created by the relationship of brick walls juxtaposed against vertically oriented fenestration. Within this rigidly conceived Classical format, the architect has enlivened the composition with a variety of decorative cast stone panels whose design is well in keeping with the art deco taste of the era. The use of these decorative elements together with the architect's liberal interpretation of the Classical vocabulary results in a decidedly modern appearance for this county courthouse that is nonetheless in keeping with the traditional imagery of this building type in Arkansas.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Lonoke County Progress, a special newspaper edition produced in cooperation with and by the staffs of the Cabot Star-Herald, Carlisle Independent, England Democrat and Lonoke Democrat, June 7, 1973, p. 14d; Centennial Book, compiled by James B. Abraham, Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the City of Lonoke and the County of Lonoke, Arkansas.

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property 2.98 acres 1.54 sq. ft.

Quadrangle name Lonoke Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

UMT References

A

1	5
Zone	Easting

6	0	0	6	5	0
Northing					

B

1	5
Zone	Easting

6	0	0	6	5	0
Northing					

C

1	5
Zone	Easting

6	0	0	7	0	0
Northing					

D

1	5
Zone	Easting

6	0	0	7	0	0
Northing					

E

Zone	Easting

Northing					

F

Zone	Easting

Northing					

G

Zone	Easting

Northing					

H

Zone	Easting

Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification

All of Block 13 and all of Block 20 in Wright's Addition, City of Lonoke

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ethel Goodstein, Architectural Historian; Don Brown, Historian

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

date May 15, 1981

street & number Suite 500 Continental Building

telephone (501) 371-2763

city or town Little Rock

state Arkansas

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title SAPO

date 3-5-82

For HCRS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 6/8/82

for Melvin Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Property: Lonske County Courthouse
 State, County: AR Lonske
 Federal Agency: _____

- ☒ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Working No. 3-24-82-901Fed. Reg. Date: FEB 1 1983Date Due: 7/9/82Action: ☒ ACCEPT 6/8/82Entered in the ☐ RETURN
National Register ☐ REJECTphotos 7maps 1Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: ☐ technical corrections cited below
☐ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name2. Location3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property5. Location of Legal Description6. Representation in Existing Surveyshas this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. 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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UMT References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

Site _____

date _____

13. Other

- _____ Maps
- _____ Photographs
- _____ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Lonoke County Courthouse
Lonoke, Arkansas
Bob Dunn, Photographer
May, 1981
Negative at Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program
Front elevation viewed from west
Number 1 of 7

MAY 25 1982



Lonoke County Courthouse
Lonoke, Arkansas
Bob Dunn, Photographer
May, 1981
Negative at Ark. Historic Preservation
Program
Detail of front elevation
Number 2 of 7

MAY 25 1982



Lonoke County Courthouse
Lonoke, Arkansas
Bob Dunn, Photographer
May, 1981
Negative at Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program
West and south elevations viewed from
southwest
Number 3 of 7

MAY 25 1982



Lonoke County Courthouse

Lonoke, Arkansas

Bob Dunn, Photographer

May, 1981

Negative at Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program

View from northeast

Number 4 of 7

MAY 25 1982



Lonoke County Courthouse

Lonoke, Arkansas

Bob Dunn, Photographer

May, 1981

Negative at Arkansas Historic

Preservation Program

Rear (east) elevation from east

Number 5 of 7

MAY 25 1982



Lonoke County Courthouse
Lonoke, Arkansas
Bob Dunn, Photographer
Negative at Ark. Historic Preservation
Program
Interior: Main entrance looking west
Number 6 of 7

MAY 25 1982



Lonoke County Courthouse

Lonoke, Arkansas

Bob Dunn, Photographer

May, 1981

Negative at Ark. Historic Preservation
Program

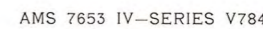
Interior: Lobby looking east

Number 7 of 7

MAY 25 1982

100
100

LONOKE QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS
15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



MAY 25 1982

RECEIVED

JAN 11 1982

AHPP

Mr. Wilson Stiles
State Historic Preservation Officer
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
Suite 500, Continental Building
Markham & Main Streets
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Mr. Stiles:

This will confirm that I am fully aware of the effects of listing a property in the National Register of Historic Places. I recognize that, under the National Historic Preservation Act, I am entitled to object to the proposed listing of my property by a notarized written statement. If I am the sole owner and I object, my property will not be listed. If there are multiple owners of this property and a majority of the owners object, the property will not be listed.

Following is the name and adress of my property.

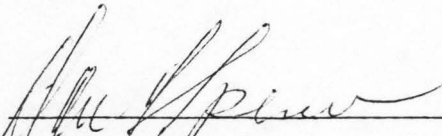
Lonoke County Courthouse

P.O. Box 431

Lonoke, AR 72086

I hereby waive my right to object to the proposed listing and notify you that I request that my property be listed in the National Register at the earliest possible date.

Sincerely,


Owner of Record

1/6/82

Date