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This two-storey wood frame courthouse has brick foundation walls and piers supporting 8" x 8" and 12" x 12" solid sills and beams. The studs are 4" x 4", the floor joists 3" x 12", and the ceiling joists are 3" x 10". It is finished on the exterior with horizontal beveled siding and corner boards.

The roof is a medium pitched hip; the shingles are asbestos and are laid in a diamond pattern, "French style."

The basic plan dimensions are 44' - 2" wide and 34' - 5" deep. The entire first floor is allocated to the open courtroom. The second floor is supported on the interior span by two round, solid, hand carved tapered columns supporting a 10" x 12" hand hewn beam. The second floor contains a Masonic Hall 38' - 3" long by 21' - 6" wide and several small ancillary spaces.

The windows are double-hung sash with a 6 \times 6 pattern of lights. The wood surrounds are moulded. The windows are shuttered with louvered blinds.

The main entrance is protected by a one-storey, one bay, pedimented Greek Revival portico. The portico is supported by square, tapered columns having moulded capitals and bases. The entrance door is flanked by pilasters of similar design. The four-paneled entrance door has moulded trim and a transom above. The 7½' high door is constructed of raised panels.

There are two outside ended chimneys. They are laid of running bond brick and have corbeled caps. The two fire places are located at either end of the courtroom. They are stack bond brick with wood surrounds. The side surrounds have a raised pilaster design supporting a simple mantel.

The Old Confederate Capitol, in excellent condition, is owned, maintained and operated as an Historic Building Museum by the Arkansas Commemorative Commission.

SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This building is the second courthouse to be built in Hempstead County. The first courthouse was of hewn logs and was built in 1824; Tillman L. Patterson was the contractor and builder. This original building served until 1840 when the volume of county business reached such proportions that it was necessary to construct a large building. This two-storey frame building served as the Hempstead County Courthouse until a new brick structure was built in 1874.

In 1863, after the capture of Arkansas Post in January and Little Rock in September, Governor Harris Flannagin ordered that the capital be moved from Little Rock to Washington. The town of Washington served as the seat of state government from 1863 to the end of the war in 1865. Two or more sessions of the Arkansas legislature were held in this building. With the cessation of hostilities the building once more became the seat of county business and continued as such until 1874 when a new brick building was built.

The town of Washington bought the old building in 1875 and it was used as a schoolhouse until 1914. After 1914 it served as a residence and Justice of the Peace's office until about 1928 when the Cleburne Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy conceived the plan of restoring the old building. In March of 1929 the Arkansas General Assembly created the Wartime Capitol Commission which was charged with the responsibility of restoring and maintaining the old building. The legislature provided a small appropriation for restoration and maintenance.

The building continued to be administered by the Wartime Capitol Commission until 1947 when Act 256 of

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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8. Significance

the General Assembly placed it under the aegis of the newly created Arkansas Commemorative Commission. It has been maintained and operated as an historic building museum since that time.

In the initial planning for the City of Washington it was envisioned that the town would grow around the Courthouse Square. The courthouse block was platted as the "Zero" block in the town plan with the old "Southwest Trail," which ran east and west directly north of the courthouse block serving as the original "Main Street." The town did not develop as the planners intended, however. The "heart" of the town, and the main business district grew just to the west of the limits of the original plat. The reason for this was that this was the crossing of the Southwest Trail and a trail which led from north to south. It was at this crossing that the Town Tavern was located. 1874 the county recognized the fact that the town center was located at the road crossing and the new county courthouse was built within a block of it.

The Confederate State Capitol served as a meetingplace for state and local Masons. Arkansas Masons recognized this in 1963 when they erected a granite monument bearing the following inscription:

"Erected by the most worshipful Grand Lodge, free and accepted Masons of Arkansas, commemorating the convening of Confederate state government and Grand Lodge bodies on this site during the years 1863 and 1864.

"This marker dedicated July 4, 1963, to those who participated in a cause they believed just. 1861 - 1865"



Form 10-300a (July 1969) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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- 9. Major Bibliographical References
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- Rock: Arkansas History Commission, 1922.
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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USGS Map

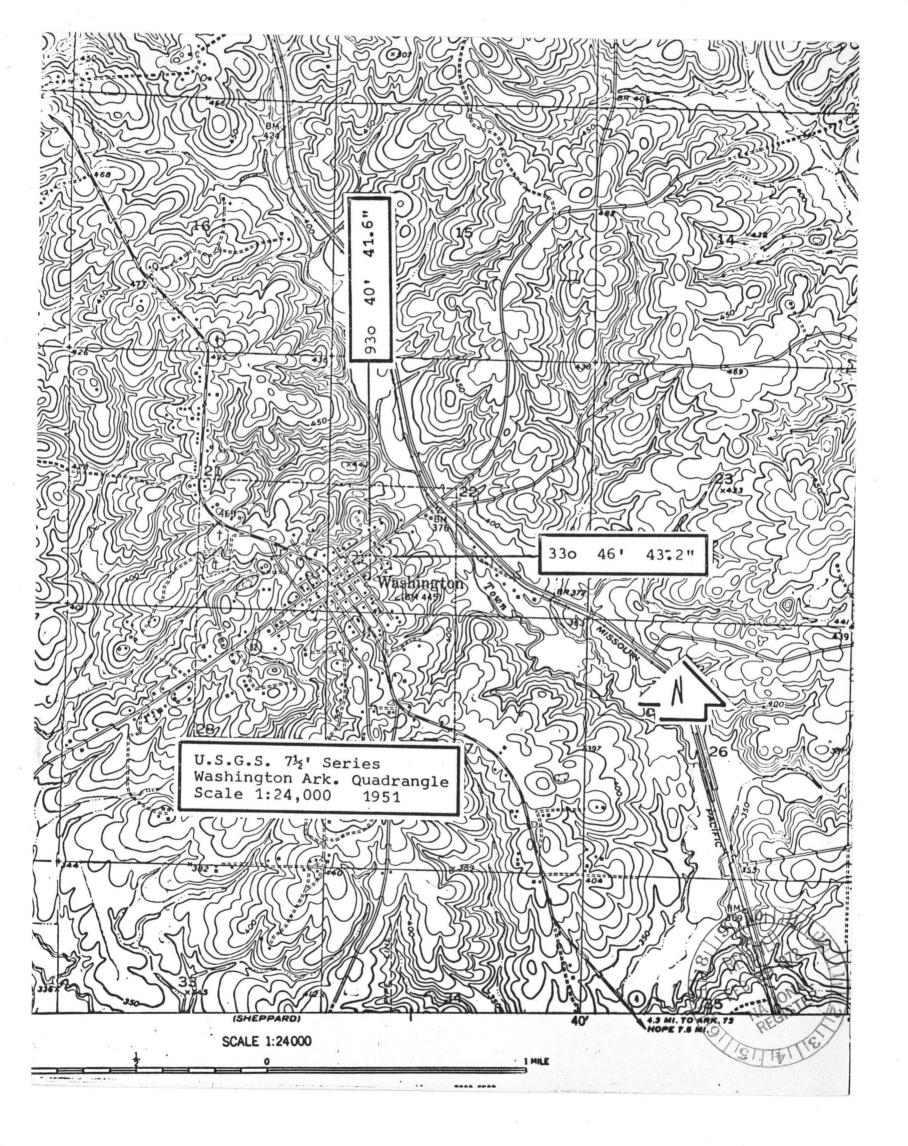
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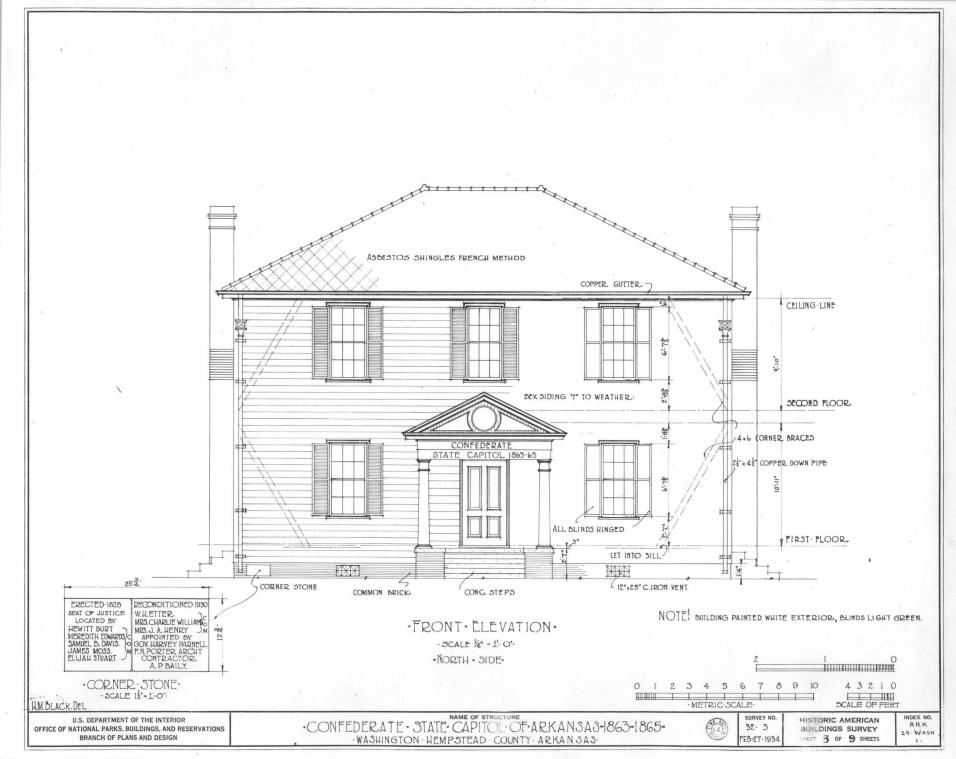
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ARKANSAS

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Name

Location

Confederate State Capitol

Washington Hempstead County

Also Notified

Hon. John L. McClellan
Hon. J. W. Fulbright
Hon. John P. Hammerschmidt
Director, Southwest Region
| HR NRowland:mm 5/15/72

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