

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED DEC 29 1975

DATE ENTERED

JAN 31 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Cleveland County Clerk's Building

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Fairgrounds

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Rison

VICINITY OF

Fourth

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Arkansas

CODE

05

COUNTY

Cleveland

CODE

025

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☒ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ COMMERCIAL
☒ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs James L. Moore

STREET & NUMBER

710 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Rison

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Cleveland County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Rison

STATE

Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

—EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
—FAIR

—DETERIORATED
—RUINS
—UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
—ALTERED

CHECK ONE

—ORIGINAL SITE
☒ MOVED DATE 1975

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cleveland County Clerk's Building is a simple one-storey structure of frame construction. The building has a rectangular floor plan measuring twenty feet by thirty-two feet. A medium-pitch gable roof and narrow clapboard siding with cornerboards enclose the structure.

A shed roof porch extends across the narrow facade and is supported by four simple posts. Tall windows, which flank the double entry, reach to the porch floor.

The simplicity of the facade is repeated on the other elevations of the building. There are three long windows on the north elevation and a single window on the south elevation. These windows are four-light, double-hung sash with very plain trim. Single entries on the south and east elevations give additional access to the building.

When originally constructed the Cleveland County Clerk's Building was located on the northeast corner of the courthouse lawn. In 1940 it was moved to a downtown lot for commercial use, but has recently been moved (1975) to a permanent location at the Cleveland County fairgrounds. The clerk's office is the second historic structure to be moved to the fairgrounds as part of a nineteenth-century rural Arkansas village being reconstructed by the Cleveland County Historical Society.

Structurally, the building remains in good condition. Future plans call for its complete restoration and continued maintenance by the local history society.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

☐ PREHISTORIC
☐ 1400-1499
☐ 1500-1599
☐ 1600-1699
☐ 1700-1799
☐ 1800-1899
☒ 1900-

☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ ARCHITECTURE
☐ ART
☐ COMMERCE
☐ COMMUNICATIONS

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING
☐ CONSERVATION
☐ ECONOMICS
☐ EDUCATION
☐ ENGINEERING
☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
☐ INDUSTRY
☐ INVENTION

☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
☐ LAW
☐ LITERATURE
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSIC
☐ PHILOSOPHY
☒ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

☐ RELIGION
☐ SCIENCE
☐ SCULPTURE
☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ THEATER
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES

1902

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Just after the turn of the century a small frame building was erected on the northeast lawn of the Cleveland County Courthouse in Rison. This simple structure was built to house the office and records of the Cleveland County Clerk. The clerk's building afforded more work and storage space than was available in the frame courthouse.

For several years following its construction in 1902, this small structure housed the county clerk's office. However, in 1911 the new brick courthouse was completed on the site of the earlier frame courthouse, and the clerk's office was returned to the main building.

Three of Cleveland County's clerks had their offices in the County Clerk's Building; the three were Pitt Holmes, J. M. McMurtrey and John T. Haskins. After the county clerks vacated the building it was rented to a former Cleveland County sheriff, J. E. Moore, for his use as a private business office. From about 1921 until 1940 the building continued its public service use, as it housed an office for the Cleveland County Agricultural Extension Service.

In 1940 the building was moved from its original site on the courthouse lawn to Rison's nearby business district. Following its move the building first housed the offices of Dr. A. B. Robertson, a local physician. When purchased by Mrs. Lois Moore in 1974 the former clerk's building was being used by a dry-cleaning firm.

In 1975 the Cleveland County Clerk's Building was moved a second time and is now located at the Cleveland County fairgrounds. Under the direction of the Cleveland County Historical Society, several historic structures from around the county are being moved to the fairgrounds as part of a reconstructed nineteenth-century rural Arkansas village. The clerk's building is the second structure to become a part of the pioneer village.

This small frame structure, with its plain lines and simple trim, is unusual in both its original purpose and continued existence. Few, if any, Arkansas counties built any county offices separate from the courthouse. Thus, the construction of the clerk's building was itself unusual. The survival of this unpretentious frame structure is likewise unusual, especially considering that it has twice been moved.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cleveland County Court Records, Book 3, p. 363.

Cleveland County Herald (Rison, Arkansas), March 14, 1973.

Moore, Lois. "Cleveland County Clerk's Building." Unpublished manuscript on file with Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 1 5 5 7 4 6 8 0 3 7 5 7 0 9 0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

ORGANIZATION Dianna Kirk, Historian

DATE

STREET & NUMBER Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

12-9-75

CITY OR TOWN 300 West Markham

TELEPHONE (501) 371-1639

STATE

STATE

Little Rock

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Anne Bartley

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 12-9-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

As the oldest public building still standing in Cleveland County, the Clerk's Building is important as a local historic landmark.

Property Cleveland County Clerk's Building
State Ark. Working Number 12.29.75.2264

76000394

TECHNICAL

Photos 3
Maps 1

CONTROL

OK pl
1.5.76

HISTORIAN

Conference
E. Smith
1-15-76

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Moved twice — political significance is not outstanding. This will be part of an "historic" recreated village.

CONF
H. J. J. L.
1/14/76

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

I agree with Ed. Despite moves it is a very significant bldg. in the county.

Accorn
Cole
1/27/76

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

accn
H. J. J. L.
1.29.76

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry 3-2-76

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered JAN 31 1976

INT:2106-74



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DEC 29 1975

DATE ENTERED JAN 31 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Cleveland County Clerk's Building

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Rison

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Cleveland

STATE

Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Dianna Kirk

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

west facade, viewed from the west

PHOTO NO.

1



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Rison

____ VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

COUNTY

Cleveland

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Dianna Kirk

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

West facade and south elevation; viewed from the southwest

PHOTO NO.

2



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Rison

— VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Cleveland

STATE

Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Dianna Kirk

DATE OF PHOTO

December, 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

south & rear elevations, viewed from the southeast

3 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED DEC 29 1975

DATE ENTERED

JAN 31 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

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AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Rison

___ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Cleveland

STATE

Arkansas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE United States Geological Survey, Rison Quadrangle

SCALE 1:24000

DATE 1970

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

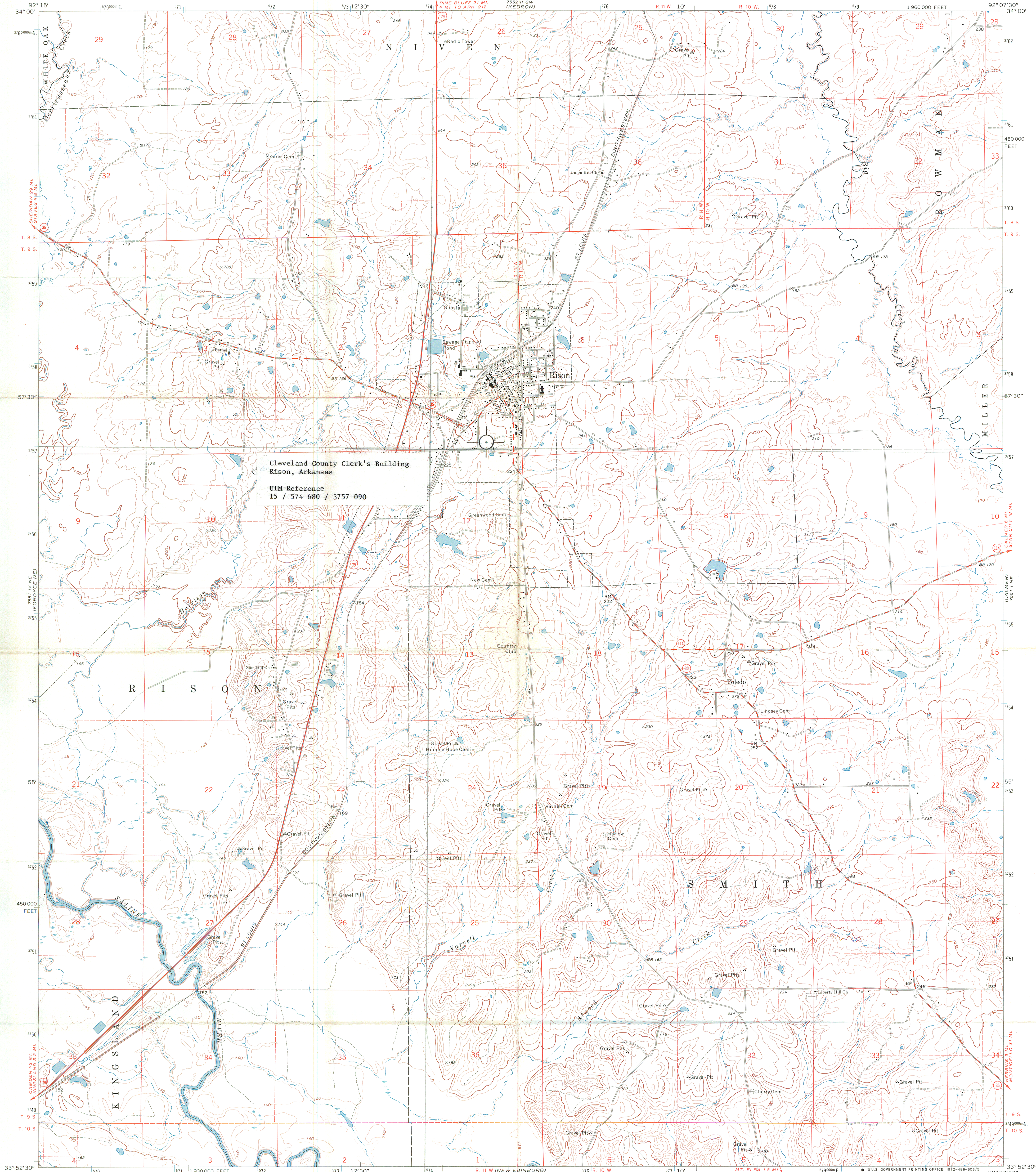
1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

7551 IV SE
(STAVES)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

RISON QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS—CLEVELAND CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

7551 II SE
(FAITH)



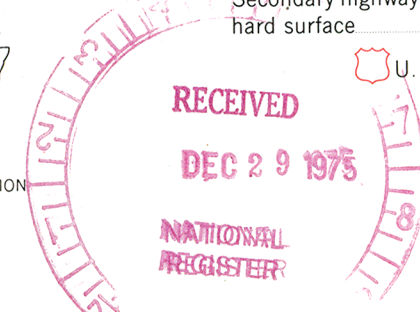
Cleveland County Clerk's Building
Rison, Arkansas
UTM Reference
15 / 574 680 / 3757 090

Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1968. Field checked 1970
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
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

UTM GRID AND 1970 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24 000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, all weather, hard surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface
Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
U. S. Route
State Route



RISON, ARK.
N3352.5—W9207.5/7.5

1970

AMS 7551 I NW—SERIES V884



ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

FIRST STATE CAPITOL • 300 WEST MARKHAM • LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201



January 8, 1976

Mr. Charles A. Herrington
Supervisor of Review
NPS - National Register
Department of Interior
18th & C Streets, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Herrington:

Two properties recently approved by the State Review Committee for nomination to the National Register need to be reviewed by your office as soon as possible. We would appreciate your immediate consideration of the Cleveland County Clerk's Office and the Simon Sager Cabin.

The Cleveland County Historical Society is planning a centennial celebration for March, 1976. If possible, this group would like to formally announce the addition to the National Register of the Cleveland County Clerk's Office at their March celebration.

In April, 1976, John Brown University will be having a special ceremony involving the Simon Sager Cabin. University officials would like to have the cabin designated as a National Register property by that time.

Thank you for your special attention concerning these two nominations.

Sincerely,

Dianna Kirk

Dianna Kirk, Historian

DK:js

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	
DATE REC'D	JAN 12 1976
_____	INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)
_____	INFORMATIVE MATERIAL SENT
_____	TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)
DATE ACTION TAKEN _____	
INITIALS	<u>Mott</u>

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ARKANSAS

Date Entered JAN 31 1976

Name

Location

Cleveland County Clerk's Building

Rison
Cleveland County

Also Notified

Hon. John L. McClellan

Hon. Dale Bumpers

Hon. Ray Thornton

Regional Director, Southwest
Region

PR

Mott

2/4/76

State Historic Preservation Officer
Ms. Anne Bartley
Acting Director, Department of
Natural and Cultural Heritage
The Old State House
300 West Markham
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

1 NAME as it appears on federal register:
✓ Cleveland County Clerk's Building

2 OTHER NAMES:

3 date of entry: 1-31-76

4 county code: 025

5 LOCATION street & number: Fairgrounds
city / town: ✓ Rison
vicinity of:
state: ✓ AR
county: ✓ Cleveland
6 NPS REGION: Southwest

7 OWNER ☒ PRIVATE ☐ STATE ☐ MUNICIPAL ☐ COUNTY ☐ MULTIPLE ☐ FEDERAL (agency name):

8 ADMINISTRATOR:

9 EXISTING SURVEYS ☐ HABS ☐ HAER ☐ NHL **10** FUNDED? ☒ YES ☐ NO **11** CONGRESS. DISTRICT: 4

12 SOURCE of NOMINATION: ☒ STATE ☐ FEDERAL if state who prepared form?

13 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☒ YES, NAME: **14** WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? ☒ YES, NAME: **15** ACREAGE: 1

16 CONDITION ☐ deteriorated ☐ altered ☐ original site ☒ excellent ☐ ruins ☒ unaltered ☒ moved 1940 & 1975 ☐ good ☐ unexposed ☐ reconstructed ☐ unknown ☐ fair ☐ unexcavated ☐ excavated

17 features: ☒ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-4 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-7 ☒ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-5 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-8 ☒ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 ☒ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-6 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-9

18 ACCESS ☒ YES-Restricted ☐ YES-Unrestricted ☐ No Access ☐ Unknown **19** ADAPTIVE USE ☒ YES ☐ NO **20** SAVED? ☐ YES ☐ NO IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☒ yes ☐ no

21 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 ☐ COMMERCE-6 ☐ ENGINEERING-11 ☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 ☒ POLITICS/GOVT.-21 ☐ RECREATION-28 ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 ☐ COMMUNICATIONS-7 ☐ ENTERTAINMENT-26 ☐ LAW-16 ☐ RELIGION-22 ☐ SETTLEMENT-29 ☐ AGRICULTURE-3 ☐ CONSERVATION-8 ☐ EXPLORATION-12 ☐ LITERATURE-17 ☐ SCIENCE-23 ☐ URBAN PLANNING-31 ☐ ARCHITECTURE-4 ☐ ECONOMICS-9 ☐ HEALTH-27 ☐ MILITARY-18 ☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24 ☐ OTHER (SPECIFY) ☐ ART-5 ☐ EDUCATION-10 ☐ INDUSTRY-13 ☐ MUSIC-19 ☐ SOCIAL/CULTURAL-30 ☐ TRANSPORTATION-25

22 CLAIMS: explain 'first' ☐ 'oldest' ☐ 'only' ☐

23 functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: county clerk's office CURRENTLY: vacant / exhibition bldg. **24** dates of initial construction: 1902 major alterations: historic events: **25** ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION

26 architectural style(s): Vernacular. **27** architect: **28** master builder: **29** engineer:

30 landscape architect / garden designer: **31** interior decorator: **32** artist: **33** artisan: **34** builder/contractor:

35 NAMES give role & date PERSONAL: EVENTS: INSTITUTIONAL:

36 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP ✓ frame, clapboarding; 1 story, rectangular, gabled roof, interior chimney, twin off-center entrances under full-width front shed porch, side entrance, boxed eaves; moved, 1940 and 1975. Vernacular. Built as overflow space from county courthouse; rare example of county clerk's offices removed from courthouse.