PH0351831

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 18 1976

DATE ENTERED

MOV 2 2 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

* Saline County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square		NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
CITY, TOWN	non-transport of the property	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	
Benton	VICINITY OF	Second	principe.
STATE Arkansas	CODE 05	COUNTY Saline	CODE 125

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENTUSE	
DISTRICT	* PUBLIC	X_OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
_XBUILDING(S)	PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK

__STRUCTURE __BOTH __WORK IN PROGRESS __EDUCATIONAL __PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLE __ENTERTAINMENT __RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT __IN PROCESS __YESTRICTED __XGOVERNMENT __SCIENTIFIC

BJECT __IN PROCESS __YES: RESTRICTED __XGOVERNMENT __SCIENTIFIC __BEING CONSIDERED __XYES: UNRESTRICTED __INDUSTRIAL __TRANSPORTATION

__NO __MILITARY __OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Saline County (John E. Parker, County Judge)

STREET & NUMBER

Saline County Courthouse

CITY. TOWN STATE

Benton ____ VICINITY OF Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Circuit Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Saline County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN STATE

Benton Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE ____FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE



CONDITION

CHECK ONE

__UNALTERED _XALTERED

CHECK ONE

_XORIGINAL SITE
__MOVED DATE_____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Saline County Courthouse in Benton, Arkansas, constructed in 1902, is a two-story brick structure resting upon a rusticated-stone foundation. The building has characteristics of Romanesque Revival architecture in its usage of semicircular arches and pyramidal tower roofs. The courthouse was designed by architect Charles L. Thompson of Little Rock and built at a cost of \$31,000 by John Odum.

The Saline County Courthouse features a truncated hipped roof. Gabled as well as hipped roofed dormers extend from the roofline at various locations. A slender brick chimney rises from the south slope of the hipped roof. A cast-stone water table encircles the structure. A string course of cast stone runs around most of the building. The structure features a denticulated cornice. Windows are of two basic shapes, tall and slender and short, double windows with semicircular transoms.

The most distinguishing feature of the Saline County Courthouse is the four-story clock tower. Located at the southeast corner of the building, this square tower is divided into three main sections by molded belt Courses. The first floor features paired round-arched windows, while all other windows are tall and slender with cast-stone lintels. A four-faced round clock is situated in the upper sections of the tower above which are four rounded archways on each elevation of the tower. The clock tower is capped by a steep pyramidal roof with finial and weathervane. In each of the other three corners of the courthouse is a two-story tower featuring cast-stone belt courses, denticulated cornice and round-arched second story windows. The towers at the northeast and northwest corners are topped by steep pyramidal roofs with finial, while the tower at the southwest corner features a steep hexagonal roof with finial.

The facade of the Saline County Courthouse is marked in the center by an arched recessed opening. The clock tower graces the south side of the facade. The north elevation is similar to the facade in that it also contains an arched recessed opening.

The interior of the courthouse appears to have been altered for changing office needs. All interior trim and molding retain a simplicity of style.

In 1903 a one-story wing was added to the north side to serve as a jail. The other addition to the building, a one-story wing, was made to the south side during Franklin Roosevelt's administration to accommodate government agencies set up during his administration.

The Saline County Courthouse rests regally on the courthouse square in Benton. In good condition, this structure is architecturally as well as historically significant.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

_COMMUNITY PLANNING _LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE __RELIGION ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC _PREHISTORIC __CONSERVATION _SCIENCE _LAW __1400-1499 _ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC _SCULPTURE __LITERATURE AGRICULTURE _ECONOMICS _1500-1599 _SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN _EDUCATION _MILITARY XARCHITECTURE _1600-1699 THEATER _ENGINEERING __MUSIC _1700-1799 ART PHILOSOPHY _TRANSPORTATION _EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

> _INDUSTRY _INVENTION

SPECIFIC DATES

PERIOD

_1800-1899

X 1900-

1900-1962

__COMMERCE

__COMMUNICATIONS

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Charles L. Thompson

_OTHER (SPECIFY)

XPOLITICS/GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The largest number of architecturally significant public buildings in Arkansas are the courthouses scattered over the state's 75 counties. A structural symbol of American government, the county courthouse serves as the center of local political activity. Often the largest and most costly building in the county, the courthouse is almost always a source of pride to the citizens who financed and make use of its facilities.

Saline County is centrally located, encompassing 748 square miles. The northern part of the county is of rough terrain but the central and southern sections are well adapted to agriculture.

Saline County was created by an Act of the Arkansas Legislature on November 2, 1835. The name was derived from numerous salt springs located in the county.

The first seat of county government was located about five miles west of Benton in a Baptist Church building. When it was decided to choose a permanent county seat there was quite a disputation. William Woodruff, editor of the Arkansas Gazette, offered 120 acres of land which included the present town of Benton with the provision that a courthouse square would be set aside; the remaining property divided into town lots and sold at auction; and that the money from the sale of the lots would be used in building a courthouse. This offer was readily accepted and lots were auctioned off on June 15, 1836, netting \$3,381.71. The reversionary clause in the deed states that the courthouse square may never be sold without the approval of the majority of the property owners on Benton. The old "Missouri Trail" ran through Benton and with mountains on the north and swampland on the south, this area was the only feasible route for pioneers from the east to the west, having been well traveled since 1815. Benton seemed an ideal spot on which to establish the county seat.

Contract for a hand-made brick, two-story building, sixty feet square, was let to Jacob Hoover. The courthouse was completed in 1838 at a cost of \$3,574. By 1856 this courthouse had become obsolete and inadequate. A second courthouse was built on the site by Green B. Hughes.

By 1901 the second courthouse had been outgrown. The quorum court on October 8, 1901, set aside \$4,000 towards the construction of a new building. John Odum secured the contract for a new courthouse at a cost of \$31,000. Prominent Little Rock architect Charles L. Thompson

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES	
A Survey of Arkansas Courthouses . Compiled by the Dames of America in the State of Arkansas. Historical Activities Committee. Arkansas R Works Progress Administration Files. Saline Count History Commission	Mrs. W. G. McDonald, Chairperson, Room, Little Rock Public Library.
Hempstead, Fay. <u>Historical Review of Arkansas</u> . C	Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 191
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA	26 25 26 26 26 26 26 26 26 26 26 26 26 26 26 26 26 26 26
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre UTM REFERENCES	SMOY ARIU MMOT COS ADRIANA MATERIAL MATERIAL MA
A 1 1 5 5 3 1 7 8 1 4 1 0 3 1 8 2 1 4 6 1 5 1 0 B	EASTING NORTHING
	inote to mousen and olders
	ng et ko logege Legendatus et de la
to the governments simpst always a compos-	successive publication of the country
LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPIN	G STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES
CODE	OO SATE TO THE PROPERTY CODE
STATE CODE COUNTY	CODE
11 FORM PREPARED BY NAME / TITLE	
Sandra Taylor, Historian ORGANIZATION	DATE
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program	9-14-76
STREET & NUMBER 300 West Markham	TELEPHONE 501-371-1639
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Little Rock	Arkansas
12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY	
NATIONAL STATE	LOCAL
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Prehereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Anne Bartley	
TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer	DATE 9-14-76
TOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL	and the second s
DIRECTOR OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION ATTEST: MULCO M. Junior	DATE 11-19-76
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

designed the structure. Court was first held in the new courthouse in September, 1902.

The Saline County Courthouse is a two-story brick building with truncated hipped roof and a four-story tower with clock and belfry. Also there is a tower in each of the other three corners of the main building. The structure features rounded archways, recessed doorways, and denticulated cornices. The Saline County Courthouse is one of the few buildings of Romanesque Revival style in Arkansas.

Architecturally, the Saline County Courthouse is a significant historical structure. Resting on the courthouse square, the building is also significant as the political and governmental center of Saline County.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

Herndon, Dallas. <u>Centennial History of Arkansas</u>. Little Rock: S. T. Clarke Publishing Company, 1922.

State Arkansas Working Number 10.18.76.4309 TECHNICAL Photos CONTROL KP OK 10.19.76 Maps HISTORIAN Political significance implied but primarily significant for architecture. Accept ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN Low Winas (1930's, and one from carlier 20 tot) 11.15.76 ARCHEOLOGIST **OTHER** HAER Inventory _____ Review REVIEW UNIT CHIEF NOV 2 2 1976 National Register Write-up Send-back _____ Entered _ Re-submit __ Federal Register Entry INT:2106-74



JAINE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

SAliNE COUNTY, ACKANSAS

SOUTH AND EAST Elevations, VIEWED from SouthEAST

AK Form

Form No. 10-301a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- LENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Saline County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Benton

__VICINITY OF

COUNTY Saline

STATE Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Bob Dunn

DATE OF PHOTO July, 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET south and east elevations, viewed from the southwest

PHOTO NO.

INT: 2983-75



2. SATINE COUNTY COUNTHOUSE

SATINE COUNTY, ANKANSAS

WEST ELEVATION, VIEWED From the WEST

Bob Dunn

Ak. Hist. Pres. Program

Form No. 10-301a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

RECEIVED OCT 18 1976

DATE ENTERED NOV 2 2 1976

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Saline County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Benton

__VICINITY OF

county Saline

STATE Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Bob Dunn

DATE OF PHOTO July, 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET West elevation, viewed from the west

PHOTO NO.

2

INT: 2983-75



3. SALINE COUNTY COURTHOUSE SALINE COUNTY COURTHOUSE South Elevation and clock tower, views from the south

Bo.

17/

Form No. 10-301a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE TERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED DOT 18 1976

DATE ENTERED

NOV 2 2 1976

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Saline County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Benton

__VICINITY OF

COUNTY Saline

STATE Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Bob Dunn

DATE OF PHOTO July, 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW. DIRECTION. ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET south elevation and clock tower, viewed from the south

PHOTO NO.

INT: 2983-75

Form No. 10-301 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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DATE ENTERED

NOV 2 2 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS

TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Saline County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Benton

___VICINITY OF

COUNTY Saline

STATE Arkansas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE U. S. Geological Survey

SCALE

1:24,000

DATE 1944 (photo revised 1970)

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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

APPROPRIATIONS CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN—SUBCOMMITTEE ON DEFENSE

JUDICIARY

CHAIRMAN—SUBCOMMITTEE ON PATENTS.

CHAIRMAN—SUBCOMMITTEE ON PATENTS, TRADEMARKS AND COPYRIGHTS CHAIRMAN—SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL LAWS AND PROCEDURES

> GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

November 10, 1976

P. WALLACE (BUDDY) WHITEAKER
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
AREA CODE 202, 224-7827

MAX PARRISH LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT AREA CODE 202, 224-7830

Dr. William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
of Historic Places
National Park Service
Dept. of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20242

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

I am writing this letter to you as a result of a request made to my office by the County Judge-elect of Saline County, Arkansas. He is most interested in having the Saline County Courthouse placed in the National Register of Historic Places before this year is out. It is my understanding that funds will be available for that structure if it is placed on the list this year. However, there is a strong possibility that those funds will not be available if the building is listed after 1976.

Approximately sixty-three years ago, I took my bar exam in this same Saline County Courthouse, and so, sentimentally, it is of importance to me. Therefore I would appreciate your help in having the building listed this year.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely

John L. McClellan

JLMc/gj

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE

ARKANSAS

Date Entered

NOV 2 2 1976

Name

Location

Saline County Courthouse

Benton

Saline County

Also Notified

Hon. John L. McClellan Hon. Dale Bumpers Hon. Wilbur D. Mills

880

Regional Director, Southwest Region State Historic Preservation Officer
Ms. Anne Bartley
Acting Director, Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program
Suite 500, Continental Building
Markham and Main Streets
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Jolei clos

H34-880

Overberg
Formuetagh
Rogers
1,0000
Wheeten 11/24

BRANOW 1/24

Cole For Herrington

Burns

NOV 2 9 1976

Honorable John L. McClellan United States Senate Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator McClellan:

Thank you for your letter concerning the nomination of the Saline County Courthouse, Saline County, Arkansas, to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Saline County Courthouse was entered in the National Register on November 22, 1976. Enclosed is a leaflet which describes the National Register program.

We appreciate your interest in historic preservation.

Sincerely yours,

/Sgd/ Jerry L. Rogers

ACTING ASSOCIATE

Enclosure

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

001-Reading File/ 160-Curry) / 190) / 700 / 760 / 880)

Honorable John L. McClellan United States Senate Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator McClellan:

I am pleased to acknowledge your November 10 letter concerning listing of the Saline County Courthouse in the National Register of Historic Places before the close of 1976.

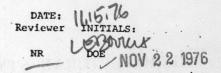
We appreciate your interest and will provide you a reply at the earliest opportunity.

Sincerely yours,

Gary Everhardt Director

190 (2)) w/incoming FNP: CRBraxton: crb: 11-16-76

NR Data Sheet



NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Saline County Courthouse OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION: STREET & NUMBER Courthouse Square

CITY. TOWN Benton

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2nd

Arkansas

COUNTY Saline

code 125

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle)

PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL (COUNTY,

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N.ATLANTIC

MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST

SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR _Substantially intact-1

EXTERIOR _Substantially intact-2

ENVIRONS - Substantially intact-3

_ unknown - 4 _ not applicable - 7 _unknown.-5 _ not applicable - 8 _ unknown -6 _ Not applicable-9

_Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

EXCELLENT CONDITION -₹G000

_DETERIORATED _RUINS

LUNALTERED ALTERED

LORIGINAL SITE MOVED

_FAIR

UNEXPOSED _Unexcavated _Reconstructed _Excavated

_Unknown

ACCESS -

Yes-restricted

Yes-unrestricted No access

NO

historic district?

YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?

YES

NO

ADAPTIVE USE:

YES

NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT?

IF YES, NAME:

IF YES, NAME:

Saved?

YES

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- GovT.

SIGNIFICANCE:

_ART

_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC

VARCHITECTURE

__COMMUNICATIONS

__COMMERCE

_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC AGRICULTURE

_CONSERVATION _ECONOMICS

_EDUCATION _ENGINEERING _EXPLORATION

_INDUSTRY

__INVENTION

_LITERATURE __MILITARY _MUSIC __PHILOSOPHY __POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE __RELIGION _LAW/Gov't/politics _science

_entertainment

_health _recreation

_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN _TRANSPORTATION

_OTHER (SPECIFY)

_settlement

_socio/cultural _urban & commun

planning

Claims

"first" YES

"oldest" YES NO

"only" YES

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: RICHARDSONIAN ROMANESQUE

architect/m.builder: CHARLES L. THOMPSON

landscape/garden designer:

interior decorator:

engineer:

artist/artisan:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

personal

(label role

appropriate date)

events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1900 71902

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS: 1930. ADDITIONS

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE: (OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV"T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

FEDERAL 'AGENCY:

ACREAGE (to nearest tenth of an acre)

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

BRICK, SQUARE, 21/2 STORM IT, PPED POOF, CORNER TOWERS, 6 STORY CORNER TOWER

1 STORY WINGS

Brick, L=story main block with 1-story wing, L=shape, hipped roof, wide arched portal with flanking 2 - story corner tower and 5-story corner clock tower with open arcaded belfry and steep pyramidal roof, projecting pedimented sections, round an arched and rectangular windows; 1-stry wing added, 1930's. Brickink Interesting brick interpretation of Rechardsonian Romanisque elements.

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

The Saline Country Courtours is the langest, most architectually Significant structure in the country and is the center of local