United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Pro	pperty	
historic name	Crossett Municipal Building	
other names/site	number Site #AS0107	
2. Location		
2. Location		
street & number	307-309 Main Street	not for publication
city or town	Crossett	☐ vicinity
state Arkansa	code AR county Ashley	code 003 zip code 71635
3. State/Federa	al Agency Certification	
Signature of c Arkansas State or Feder In my opinion, comments.)	he National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comment of the local l	(See Continuation sheet for additional
1 National Par	rk Service Certification	,
I hereby certify that entered in ti Se determined National I	the property is: the National Register. the continuation sheet eligible for the Register. the continuation sheet not eligible for the Register. the National	Date of Action $9 \cdot 20 \cdot 0$

Crossett Municipal Building Name of Property		Ashley County, Arkansas County and State		
5. Classification				
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in count.)		
□ private⋈ public-local□ public-State□ public-Federal	building(s) district site structure object	Contributing Noncontributing 1	buildings sites structures	
		1	objects Total	
Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)		Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register		
6. Function or Use				
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions))	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		
GOVERNMENT:city hall		GOVERNMENT: correctional facility		
GOVERNMENT:correction	al facility	GOVERNMENT: fire station		
GOVERNMENT: fire station	1	GOVERNMENT:government office		
GOVERNMENT:government	nt office			
GOVERNMENT:courthouse	9			
EDUCATION: library				
7. Description				
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) MODERN MOVEMENT: Art Deco		Materials (Enter categories from instructions) foundation Concrete walls Brick		
		roof Aphalt, Slate, Copper		
		other		

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Cro	ssett	Municipal	Building	
	0.00			_

Name of Property

Ashley County, AR

County and State

United States Department of the Interior

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SUMMARY

The Crossett Municipal Building was constructed in Art Deco Style. The north end of the building originally housed the City's library, but now houses the Police Department. The center area of the building houses offices and the Municipal Courtroom, and the south end of the building is home to the Fire Department.

ELABORATION

The Crossett Municipal Building was constructed in Art Deco Style. The north end of the building originally housed the City's library, but now houses the Police Department. The center area of the building houses offices and the Municipal Courtroom, and the south end of the building is home to the Fire Department. The building rests on a continuous concrete foundation, has brick walls, and is topped by a mainly flat roof. The center part of the building, however, is crowned by a pyramidal roof with decorative cupola.

Side/North Facade

The north façade of the building is brick with limestone accents and original light fixtures. The west end of the north façade—the front entrance to the Police Department—is brick with limestone accents. To the right of the entrance are three three-paned awning windows.

Front/West Façade

Beginning at the north end of the façade, three three-paned awning windows flank the door and are accented by limestone windowsills. A limestone frieze adorns the top of the door indicating the area's original purpose as the library.

The façade then recesses and is fenestrated by six three-paned awning windows. The west-central façade is the showpiece of the building and encompasses the main entrance. The walls are brick with limestone accents. Limestone flowerbeds adorn either side of the front door, which is encircled by limestone and topped with a limestone frieze that reads "Crossett Municipal Building." A flag pole is in front of this entrance with a limestone base that matches the detail in the flowerbeds. The historic jail, now used mainly for storage, is topped with a copper cupola.

To continue the building's symmetry six more three-paned awning windows lead you further south. The south end of the west façade, which projects, is brick with limestone accents. A limestone frieze accents this wall indicating its designation as the Fire Station.

Side/South Façade

The south façade is brick with large bays to house the fire trucks and ambulance.

Crossett Municipal Building	
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Rear/East Façade

The east end of the south façade continues in brick and is accented with original light fixtures. The east central façade is brick and serves as the back entrance. Heavy metal doors and three-paned awning windows with limestone windowsills accent this area. The north end of the east façade continues with brick as well.

Interior

As for the interior, the center section of the building has seen the least amount of changes over the years. The main entry way contains most of its original materials, though some areas are in great need of repair. Brown and beige terrazzo floors, blonde wood panels, polished granite walls, fresco reliefs and pewter light fixtures welcome visitors. The Municipal Courtroom also contains most of its original design and materials with granite windowsills, blonde wood wall panels and even the original chairs. Original skylights can also be found throughout the building.

Some alterations have been made over the years to accommodate growth, with most of the alterations occurring on the north and south ends of the building. Vinyl tile, new light fixtures and paneling were added at some point in an effort to make economical repairs and when the functions of the areas changed. An addition was added which extended the east wall of both the north and south ends of the building. These extensions were made in the 1980s, with care being taken to use similar materials making the alterations virtually unnoticeable.

Integrity

The Crossett Municipal Building retains good integrity. The building retains many of its original features and still remains an excellent example of the Art Deco style. In addition, the area of Crossett where the Municipal Building is located retains the small-town feel that it would have had when the building was built in 1953.

Crossett	Municipal	Building
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Ashley County, Arkansas

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Section manager				

SUMMARY

The Crossett Municipal Building at 307-309 Main Street in Crossett, Ashley County, Arkansas, represents an excellent example of the Art Deco style in Crossett. As a result, it is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** with **local significance**. The building is also significant for its associations with the efforts of the town to provide governmental facilities for the community after it ceased to be a company town and for its associations with early self-governance in Crossett. The Crossett Municipal Building is also being nominated to the National Register under **Criterion A** with **local significance**.

ELABORATION

Crossett was founded around the turn of the nineteenth century in southeast Arkansas. The town was founded to house a sawmill and lumber company. Most of the leadership and capital for the establishment of the Crossett Lumber Company came from three families. The Crossett Company was started as a lumber operation, but soon developed into a number of wood-using industries. The first mill manager and co-owner of the company, E. W. "Cap" Gates, was the visionary behind the town.

During this era, company owned sawmill towns were common. This meant that the company owned "everything." You worked for the company, lived in a company house, shopped at the company store, sent your children to company-owned schools, and received company scrip as pay. Until 1946, every business and building in town, except a café, pressing shop and post office were company owned and operated. In 1946, due to the increasing size of the town, a new development plan was established and homes were sold to company employees. At this time, Crossett began its evolution from a company-owned town to a town with a thriving company at the base of its economy.

Crossett was named one of the 100 finalists in the 1953 All-America Cities Contest, sponsored by *Look Magazine* and the National Municipal League. "The City with a Plan" was the town's slogan, and it was true. In 1940, Crossett became the first planned city in Arkansas when the nation's leading city planners prepared the first plan for a future Crossett of 5,000 people. In 1953, the renowned firm planning firm of Harland Bartholomew & Associates of St. Louis, Missouri, completed months of tedious effort and presented to the City of Crossett a plan for a future Crossett of 25,000 people—five times the size. Crossett was the only city in the United States under 100,000 population having a comprehensive city plan embracing all elements of community facilities.

Prior to 1953, all Crossett's municipal facilities—city hall, fire station, police station, jail and library—were scattered around the community. These facilities were inefficient and needed to be updated. At this point, Crossett had been a company town for nearly half a century. For the first time in the history of Crossett, the town's voice was heard through an election of a bond issue for municipal improvement. The first bond issue proposal for the construction of a \$200,000 Municipal Building appeared before the voters in 1952 but was defeated by only 35 votes. The City Council agreed that this defeat was due to the general public being misinformed about the actual cost per year of the facility.

Crossett Municipal Building	
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As has proven true throughout the history of Crossett, "defeat" was a dangerous word to use. It only made some of the residents more determined to get the bond issue passed. In 1953, a progressive group of citizens joined together to once again seek passage of this bond issue. All forms of communication were used to get the message to the citizens of Crossett. Civic groups were contacted, newspaper editorials were published, and extensive research was conducted to prove to the average citizen that the new municipal building would save the citizens money. Voter Education was centered on the facts of why the proposed municipal building would benefit the town:

- 1) City government and facilities must keep pace with the rapid industrial, commercial and residential growth of Crossett.
- 2) Relocating industries place considerable emphasis upon the physical appearance of a city and our present city quarters do not come up to the "Crossett Standard."
- 3) The City Library has a large space reserved in the new building—the Library Board endorses the new building enthusiastically since it means that funds which they have been accumulating for expansion of their present building can be used for buying more books, which they wish to do. Also, the Library Board will gain additional funds by the sale of their present building. The new quarters will provide space for colored library patrons, as well.
- 4) The new Municipal Building will offer enlarged and greatly improved facilities for Council Meetings, city offices, and meeting rooms for general civic use.
- 5) The combination of the new city auditorium, which is being constructed at no cost to Crossett taxpayers, and the new Municipal Building will give Crossett citizens the finest civic facilities of any city of our size in the South.
- 6) A city jail is incorporated in the plans for the new building, which will replace the present inadequate and unheated jail near the ice plant.
- 7) A fire-proof vault, long needed for city records, will be included in the new building.
- 8) Word has been received from the Arkansas Rating Bureau that with the improved fire station facilities for fire trucks and a permanent fire department employee that will be included in the new building, plus a 500 GPM pumper that is to be voted on at the same time, Crossett's general fire rating should be reduced from Class 7 to Class 6, which means a savings of 10 cents/\$100 of insurance coverage. This savings in nearly every case will be greater than the annual cost to the taxpayer for the new Municipal Building.
- 9) Cost for the residential taxpayer of Crossett for the new building will be surprisingly low. The average cost was computed for 12 blocks in Crossett, representing a good cross-section of the entire city, and it was found that the average valuation for the taxpayers in these 12 sample blocks was \$851. At a 3.5 mill levy, this would mean an average of \$2.98 per year or roughly 25 cents per month. Less than a pack of cigarettes a month to build the new building.

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- 10) Industrial and commercial tax valuation in Crossett represents 75-80% of the total valuation, leaving only 20-25% of the cost of the new building to be borne by all of the residential taxpayers in Crossett.
- 11) While the bond issue to build this building is set for 20 years, it is estimated that the building will be paid off in much less time since the new industrial plants that are scheduled to be built in the near future will add substantially to the valuation for Crossett. This will permit paying off the outstanding bonds over a shorter number of years.

On September 15, 1953, Crossett citizens took the first progressive step on their own during a special election by passing, by an overwhelming majority, the bond issue for the \$200,000 Municipal Building. The vote was 391-261 in favor of the structure and the new fire engine.

The Crossett Municipal Building was dedicated on May 14, 1954, with a luncheon, a parade and a ceremony with then Governor Orval Faubus as guest speaker. Construction costs for the new structure totaled \$185,000. The library was housed in the north end of the building, where spacious rooms were decorated in blonde wood. This area boasted an abundance of daylight thanks to the skylights. The library was moved out of this building in the mid-1960s. The north end of the building has served as home to the city's Police Department ever sense. The center area of the building originally housed the Mayor's office and conference rooms, Judge's Chamber, Treasurer's office, and Police Chief's office. These rooms were decorated with blonde wood paneling and green carpet in the offices. The Court Room is located in the center of this building. Located in the south end of the building is the Fire Department. The second story of the building, constructed of "cut-proof" steel, originally housed the city jail.

The Crossett Municipal Building remains the centerpiece of the community's government. The building is still an important building to the Crossett residents and occupies a prominent location on Main Street. The continued use and preservation of the building is a testament to Crossett's government and residents.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Crossett Municipal Building at 307-309 Main Street in Crossett, Ashley County, Arkansas, represents an excellent example of the Art Deco style in Crossett. As a result, it is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** with **local significance**. The building is also significant for its associations with the efforts of the town to provide governmental facilities for the community after it ceased to be a company town and for its associations with early self-governance in Crossett. The Crossett Municipal Building is also being nominated to the National Register under **Criterion A** with **local significance**.

Crossett Municipal Building	Ashley County, Arkansas
Name of Property	County and State

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Newspaper/local magazine clippings from City of Crossett 1953 Scrapbook.

Newspaper/local magazine clippings from Crossett Company 1953 Scrapbook.

Oral History interview with Fire Chief Jimmy Launius

Oral History interview with Assistant Police Chief Ronnie Rickman

Oral History interview with Mayor Scott McCormick

Name of Property		County at	id State	
10. Geographical Data				
Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre	1.70			
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)				
1 15 596877 3665787 Zone Easting Northing Verbal Boundary Description		3 Zone 4	Easting See continuation sheet	Northing
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)				
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.				
11. Form Prepared By				
name/title Cherub Alford, edited by Ralph S. Wilco	x, National Register & Sur	rvey Coordin	ator	
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Progr		date	May 31, 2007	
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center	r Street	telephone	(501) 324-978	37
city or town Little Rock	state	AR	zip code	72201
Additional Documentation				
Submit the following items with the completed form:				
Continuation Sheets				
Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicated A Sketch map for historic districts and proper			resources.	
Photographs				
Representative black and white photograph	s of the property.			
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)				
Property Owner				
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)				
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.) name				
			telephone 8	70-364-4825
name City of Crossett	state	e AR	telephone 8	70-364-4825 71635

Ashley County, Arkansas

Crossett Municipal Building

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

Crossett Municipal Building	ilding Ashley County, Arkansas	
Name of Property	County and State	
United States Department of the Interior		
National Park Service		

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Subdivision Crossett Original; Block 40 Parcel # 706-00380-000E

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This is all the land that is historically associated with the Crossett Municipal Building.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Crossett Municipal Bu NAME:	ilding
MULTIPLE NAME:	
STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Ashle	Y
DATE RECEIVED: 8/09/07 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/11/07 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:	DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/27/07 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/22/07
REFERENCE NUMBER: 07000966	
REASONS FOR REVIEW:	
	DSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N IOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N
COMMENT WAIVER: N	
ACCEPTRETURNREJ	ECT 9.20.07 DATE
ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:	
	med in the
PEGON /GPTEPT	
RECOM./CRITERIA	
REVIEWER	DISCIPLINE
TELEPHONE	DATE
DOCUMENTATION see attached comme	nts Y/N see attached SLR Y/N
If a nomination is returned to t nomination is no longer under co	
monthacton is no longer under co	indiactacton by one med.



- 1. CROSSETT MUNICIPAL BUILDING
- 2. CROSSETT, ASHLEY County, AR
- 3, SARAH JAMPOLE
- 4. October 2006
- S. Arkonsas Historic PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR
- 6. West Elevation looking at Front of Building
- 7. #1



- 1. CROSSETT MUNICIPAL BUILDING
- 2. Crossett, Ashley County, AR
- 3, SARAH JAMPOLE
- 4. actober 2006
- S. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR
- 6. WEST ELEVATION STAVING Main Entince
- 7, # 2



- 1. CROSSETT MUNICIPAL BUILDING
- 7. CROSSETT, ASHLEY COUNTY
- 3, SARAH JAMPOLE
- 4. October 2006
- 5, ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, ATR
- 6. WEST EIEVATION LOOKING TOWARD THE NORTHEAST
- 7. #3



- 1, CROSSETT MUNICIPAL BUILDING
- 2. CROSSETT, ASHLEY COUNTY, AR
- 3. SARAH JAMPOLE
- 4. OctoBER 2006
- 5. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR
- 6. SOTH ELEVATION Looking NoIRTH
- 7, #4



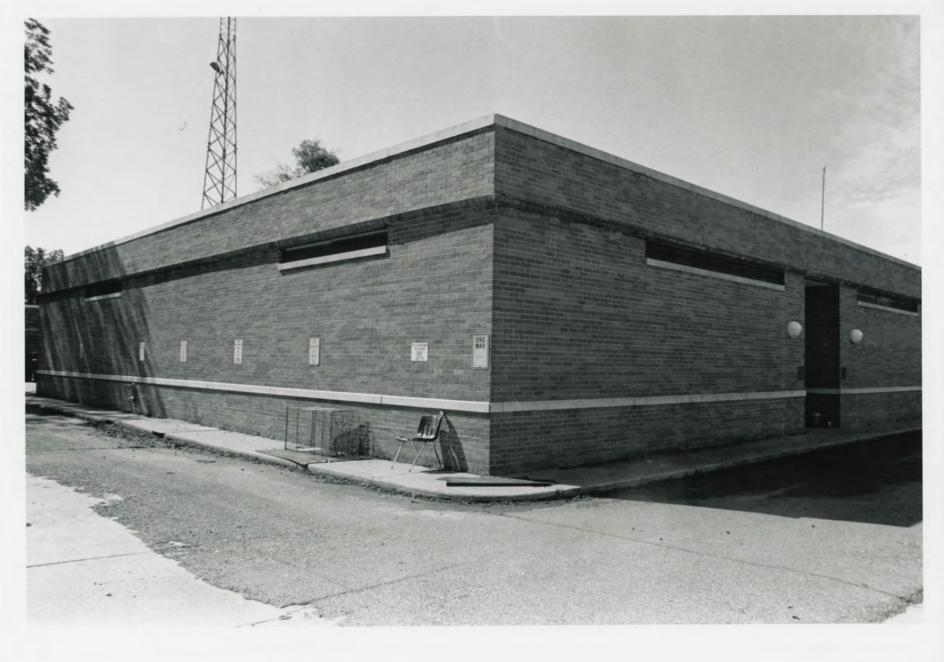
- 1. CROSSETT PUNICIPAL BUILDING
- 2. CROSSETT, ASHLEY COUNTY, AR
- 3, SARAH JAMPOLE
- 4. OCTOBER 2006
- 5. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR
- 6. SOUTHEAST ELEVATION LOOKING WEST (SOUTH END OF BUILDING)
- 7, £ 5



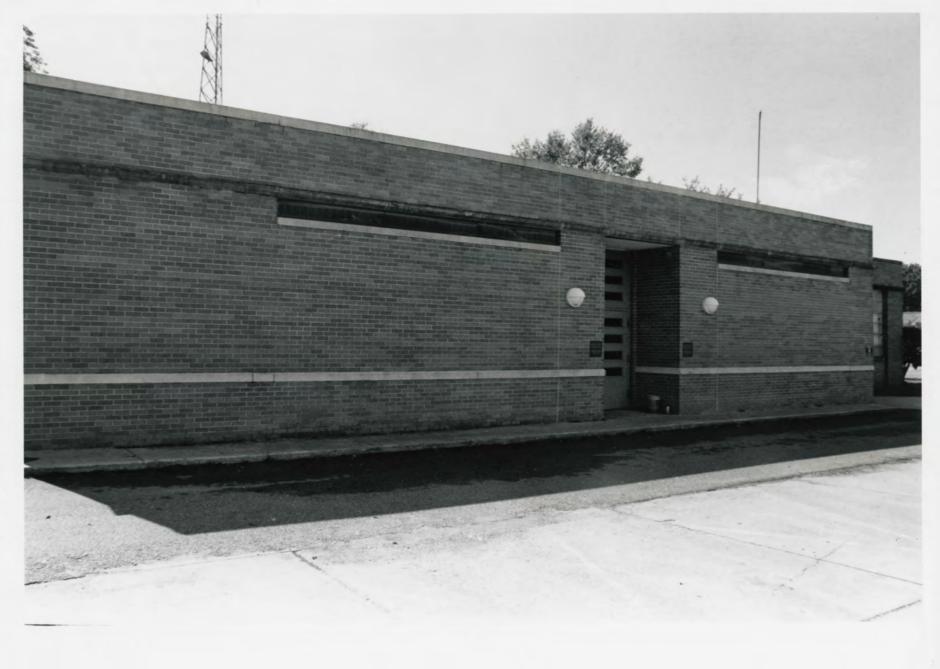
- 1. CROSSETT MUNICIPAL BUILDING
- 2. CRUSSETT, ASHLEY COUNTY, AR
- 3, SARAH JAMPOLE
- 4. October 7006
- 5. ARICANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE Rock, AR
- 6. North ELEVATION on SOUTH END and Southeast facade. VIEW TOWARD south west
- 7, # 6



- 1. CROSSETT MUNICIPAL BUILDING 2. CROSSETT, ASHLEY COUNTY, AR
- 3, SARAH JAMPOLE
- 4. OCTOBER 2006
- 5. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROCRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR
- 6. EAST ElEVATION (MIDDLE) looking West
- 7, 世7



- 1. CROSSETT MUNICIPAL BUILDING
- Z. CROSSETT, ASHLEY COUNTY, AR
- 3, SARAH SAMPOLE
- 4. OCTOBER 2006
- 5. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR
- G. EAST FACADE (NORTH SIDE) and Northeast Lacade looking South west
- 7, #8



- 1. CROSSETT MUNICIPAL BUILDING
- 2. CROSSETT, ASHLEY COUNTY, AR
- 3. SARAH JAMFOLE
- 4. October 2006
- 5. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROCRAM, LITTLE ROLK, AR
- G. NORTHEAST ELEVATION
- 7, 49



1. CROSSETT MUNICIPAL BUILDING

2. CROSSETT, ASHLEY COUNTY, AR

3, SARAH JAMPOLE

4. October 2006

5. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR

G. Northwest Blevation

7. # 10



- 1, CROSSETT MUNICIPAL BUILDING
- 2. CROSSETT, ASHLEY COUNTY, AR
- 3, SARAH JAMPOLE
- 4. October 2006
- 5. ARKANDAS HISTDEIC PRESCRIATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR
- 6. Northeast Eacade and northeast facade looking toward southeast
- 7. # 11



The Department of Arkansas Heritage

Mike Beebe Governor

Cathie Matthews Director

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars Cultural Center

Old State House Museum



Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

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August 1, 2007

Dr. Janet Matthews
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
8th Floor
1201 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005



RE: Crossett Municipal Building – Crossett, Ashley County, Arkansas

Dear Dr. Matthews:

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

If you need further information, please call Ralph S. Wilcox of my staff at (501) 324-9787. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews

State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:rsw

Enclosure

An Equal Opportunity Employer

