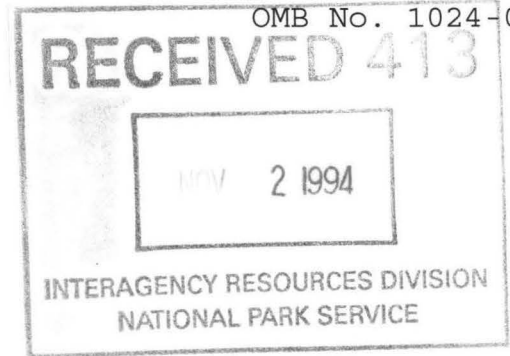


1413

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



=====

**1. Name of Property**

=====

historic name: Old Sebastian County Jail

other name/site number: Sebastian County Jail - Southern District

=====

**2. Location**

=====

street & number: Located to the east of the courthouse on the south side  
of State Highway 10

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Greenwood

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Sebastian code: AR 131 zip code: 72949

=====

**3. Classification**

=====

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

=====

#### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Barbara H. Slater  
Signature of certifying official

10-24-94  
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

=====

#### 5. National Park Service Certification

=====

I, hereby certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register  
\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
☐ determined eligible for the  
National Register  
\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
☐ determined not eligible for the  
National Register  
☐ removed from the National Register  
\_\_\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Edson H. Beall 12.1.94

[Signature] Signature of Keeper Date  
of Action

=====

#### 6. Function or Use

=====

Historic: GOVERNMENT

Sub: Correctional facility

Current: RECREATION AND CULTURE

Sub: Museum

=====  
**7. Description**  
=====

Architectural Classification:

Other  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other Description: Traditional stone masonry tradition

Materials:	foundation	<u>Stone</u>	roof	<u>Asphalt</u>
	walls	<u>Stone</u>	other	<u>N/A</u>
				_____

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

=====  
**8. Statement of Significance**  
=====

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Locally.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1889-91 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates: 1889-91 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person(s): N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder: Kunkel, Issac (Ike)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.  
X See continuation sheet.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**



Section number 7 Page 1

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**Summary**

Located near the center of downtown Greenwood, the Old Sebastian County Jail is a two-storey, cut stone masonry jail building designed in a simple, functional style with little discernible ornament. Its six-over-six wood sash windows are placed behind the original metal security bars and the original metal security doors remain in all four door openings on the front or northern elevation. The only alteration of note is the wood frame front porch.

**Elaboration**

The Old Sebastian County Jail is a two-storey, cut stone masonry jail building designed in a simple, functional style with little discernible ornament. The rectangular plan is relieved only by a recent single-storey, flat roof, wood frame front porch with a balcony. There are no chimneys evident, and the flat, built-up tar roof and stone walls rest upon a continuous stone foundation.

The northern or front elevation is symmetrically composed overall, with the axis running between the center of the northern and southern elevations. Both storeys are accessed via two single-leaf entrances on each floor, which are flanked by a single rectangular window opening on each side. Each window is glazed with six-over-six wood sash and secured with metal bars embedded into the surrounding stone masonry. The recent wood frame porch structure both shelters the first storey entrances and provides a balcony for the second-storey doors.

The eastern and western elevations are identical. Both are fenestrated with two symmetrically-placed windows on each floor that are, in overall configuration, identical to those of the front elevation.

The southern or rear elevation features a total of seven window openings. The four window openings to the west are distinctly separate from the three to the east, and placed two to a floor. The eastern end contains two windows on the first floor and but one above, placed directly above the easternmost window below. The blank space to the west has not been filled since the original construction; instead, this area was always blank as the cistern that provided the jail with drinking water rested upon several metal supports that are still visible directly above the first storey window below.

The only significant exterior detail of note is the rough hewn cut stone masonry that lends the

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

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exterior its distinctive texture and "rough" aspect.

The interior, always simple and without significant ornament -- as was common for such structures -- remains so, and the only changes to it have been the opening up of the wall between the former cells on each floor and the construction of interior staircases between the floors (originally the only means of second floor access was a set of exterior staircases on the front of the building, where the wooden porch now stands, that led to the extant metal security doors on the second floor; before their construction, the second floor was accessed via a wooden ladder that was removed when not in use).

Apart from the aforementioned alterations the Old Sebastian County Jail remains largely intact, and currently serves the county as a museum. It is in good condition.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1

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**Summary**

Criterion C, local significance

The Old Sebastian County Jail is locally significant under Criterion C by virtue of its direct associations with Ike Kunkel, a regional stonemason who was hired by Sebastian County on the basis of his considerable reputation as a craftsman and builder. It is also the finest extant example of this particular rough-hewn stone masonry style in Greenwood.

**Elaboration**

Sebastian County -- created on January 6, 1851 -- received its first formal county seat when Judge Alfred Burton Greenwood declared this small, centrally-located community the county seat upon March 10th of that year, his first day of court. Judge Greenwood, a native of Georgia, came to Arkansas in 1838 to explore the frontier and to seek his fortune in this unspoiled wilderness. Initially settling in Bentonville, he first served as the prosecuting attorney for the ten northwestern Arkansas counties, and was then appointed circuit judge for those same ten counties. In 1851 the newly-created Sebastian county was within his jurisdiction, and his arrival in this small community to hold his first day of court provided the locals with a fitting name for the town.

With the designation of Greenwood as the county seat of the southern district of Sebastian County (Fort Smith served the northern district), Greenwood was insured a steady stream of county business, which comprised a significant portion of the early traffic in the town. Coal in abundance would be discovered later, and a substantial and active mining industry would grow around it; however, Greenwood's primary importance was as a regional civic and commercial hub.

The existence of Ft. Smith to the north -- complete with its relatively elaborate military facilities -- rendered the need for a full jail in the southern county seat almost non-existent. However, there was a need for a temporary jail where prisoners awaiting conveyance to Ft. Smith could be held; in effect, a "holding" jail. Previous jail structures proved inadequate to the purpose for which they were intended, as they were put to the torch in the process of several planned "breakouts" or escapes. However, a widely-held belief claims that the Greenwood jail was also often used for the incarceration of the mentally ill.

Finally, in 1886, the county made the decision to invest in a substantial, well-built structure that would prevent such dramatic escapes and insure that prisoners would be turned over for trial.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2

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Though the sum of \$5,000 was appropriated in that year, it does not appear that work actually commenced until 1889, when money was again appropriated during the court's October term, this time not to exceed \$2,500. Thereafter construction proceeded apace, as the county records indicate that the jail building was occupied by April of 1891, and a Quorum Court resolution passed in October of that year thanked County Judge W. F. Blythe for his instrumental role in the erection and completion of the new jail, of which they were "proud."

A recent interview with the grandson of the stone mason Issac "Ike" Kunkel revealed a great deal about Ike Kunkel and his role in the construction of the Old Sebastian County Jail. Born in Iowa on April 27, 1844, Ike fought for the Confederacy during the Civil War and eventually settled near the present-day community of Mansfield, at the foot of what would become known as Kunkel Mountain. Ike settled upon a 160-acre tract of land, married soon thereafter, and gradually expanded his "plantation" to 1,200 acres. Ike would manage the plantation during the growing season, but, being a talented stone mason, would ply his craft in the general vicinity during less busy times. He is reputed to have built the earlier Scott County Courthouse in Waldron (the stone walls of which are reported to be still standing near the current courthouse) and his best known work outside of this part of Arkansas is the Peter Conser House near Hodgens, Oklahoma, where in 1894 he built the three substantial cut stone chimneys for Conser's new home.

In 1890 Ike brought his son, Henry Oliver Kunkel, and his son-in-law George Williamson to help him with the construction of the Sebastian County Jail. They camped adjacent to the site because the trip back and forth to Mansfield was too arduous to do every day. The stone was quarried southwest of Greenwood from part of what is called Backbone Mountain, and the sand for the mortar was brought from the bed of the Blackfork River; Ike's own mules hauled all the necessary materials and supplies to the site.

The Old Sebastian County Jail stands in mute testimony to the craftsmanship of Ike Kunkel. The large, horizontal blocks, weighing a minimum of several hundred pounds each, certainly served the purpose of constructing a substantial, secure jail building; however, the consistent quality of both the ashlar finish on the exterior surface and the actual setting of the stone from foundation to roof bespeaks Kunkel's experience and attention to detail, a characteristic common to his other known construction. This building also remains the oldest extant county building in all of Sebastian County. For these reasons the Old Sebastian County Jail is considered significant under Criterion C with local significance.



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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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X See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- X State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

=====

## 10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property: Less than one

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	<u>15</u>	<u>385830</u>	<u>3897080</u>	B	<u>15</u>	_____
C	<u>15</u>	_____	_____	D	<u>15</u>	_____

\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: \_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Lots 7, 8 and 9, Block 2 of the Original City of Greenwood, Sebastian County, Arkansas.

Boundary Justification: \_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all of the property historically-associated with this building.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 1

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**Bibliography**

Information provided by Luan Hearn Moore, February, 1994.

Interview with Aaron Martin Kunkel, Heavener, Oklahoma, March 1, 1994.

*The Key*, Spring, 1967, vol. 2; Spring, 1969, vol. 4; Spring, 1976, vol. 11; 1990, vol. 25.

Wilkinson, Means, *Greenwood, Sebastian County, Arkansas, 110 Years A County Seat*,  
(Greenwood, Arkansas: 1961).

=====

**11. Form Prepared By**

=====

Name/Title: Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 10/13/94

Street & Number: 323 Center Street, Suite 1500 Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR Zip: 72201

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Sebastian County Jail, Old  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Sebastian

DATE RECEIVED: 11/02/94 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/15/94  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/01/94 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/17/94  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 94001413

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 12.1.94 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_  
REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_  
DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

---

CLASSIFICATION

☐ count ☐ resource type

---

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

---

FUNCTION

☐ historic ☐ current

---

DESCRIPTION

☐ architectural classification  
☐ materials  
☐ descriptive text

---

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

---

BIBLIOGRAPHY

---

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

☐ acreage ☐ verbal boundary description  
☐ UTM's ☐ boundary justification

---

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

☐ sketch maps ☐ USGS maps ☐ photographs ☐ presentation

---

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_



OLD SEBASTIAN Co. LAKE

GREENWOOD, SEBASTIAN Co., ARKANSAS

PHOTO BY R. BALDWIN

JULY, 1994

NEG. ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM NORTH







OLD SEBASTIAN R. VOIL

GREENWOOD, SEBASTIAN R., ARKANSAS

PHOTO BY R. BALDWIN

JULY, 1994

NEG. ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM SOUTHEAST



OLD SEBASTIAN C. VAIL  
GREENWOOD, SEBASTIAN Co., ARKANSAS  
PHOTO BY R. BALDWIN  
JULY, 1994  
NEG. ON FILE AT AHPP  
VIEW FROM NORTHEAST





OLD SEBASTIAN Co. Jail  
GREENWOOD, SEBASTIAN Co., ARKANSAS  
PHOTO. BY R. BALDWIN  
JULY, 1994

NEG. ON FILE AT AHPP

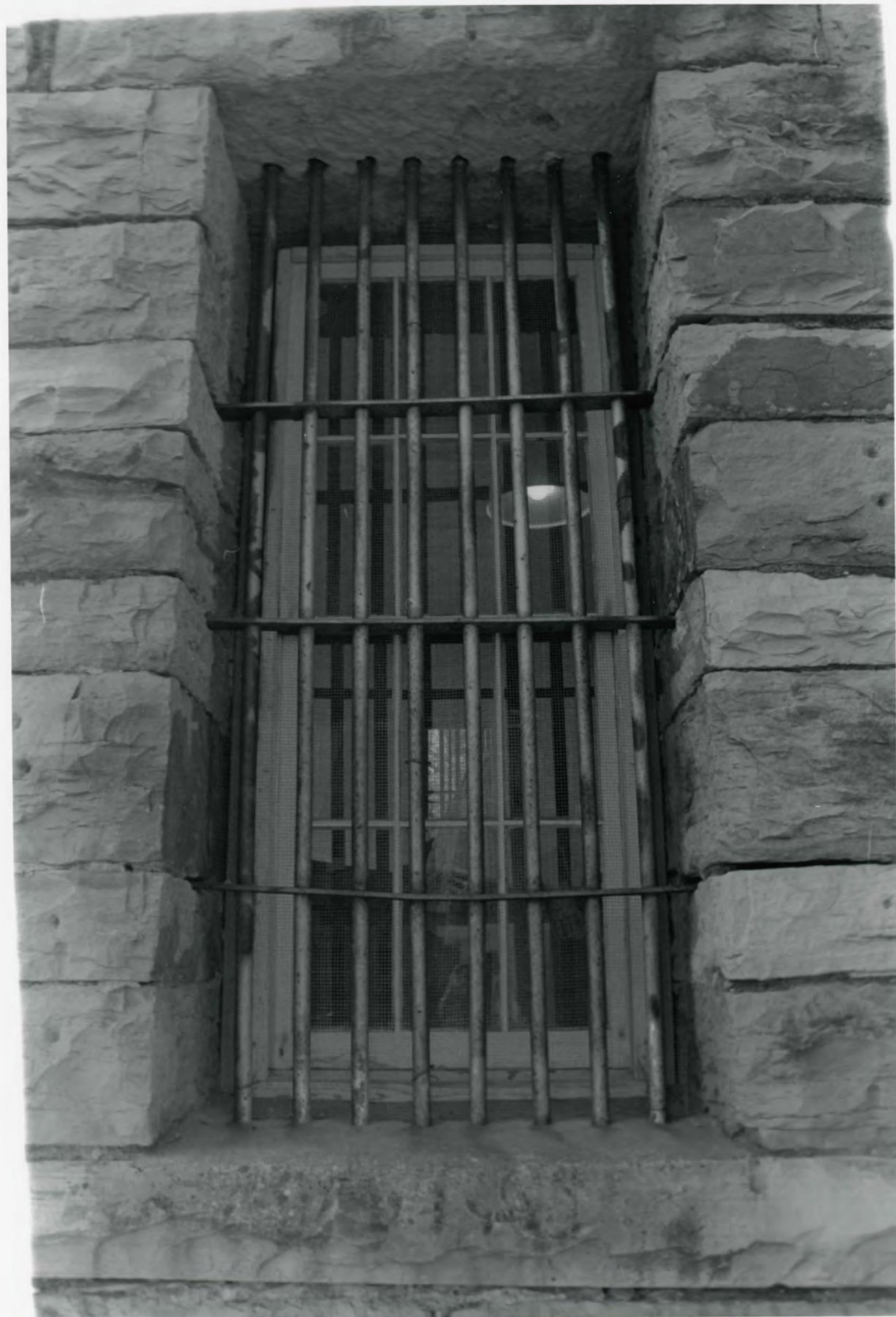
VIEW FROM SOUTH





OLD SEBASTIAN Co. SAIL  
GREENWOOD, SEBASTIAN Co., ARKANSAS  
PHOTO. BY R. BARLOWIN  
JULY, 1994  
NEG. ON FILE AT AHPP  
VIEW FROM WEST.





OLD SEBASTIAN Co. Jail

GREENWOOD, SEBASTIAN Co., ARKANSAS

PHOTO BY R. BALDWIN

JULY, 1994

NEG. ON FILE AT SHPP

WINDOW DETAIL





OLD SEBASTIAN Co. VAIL  
GREENWOOD, SEBASTIAN Co., ARKANSAS  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY R. BALDWIN  
JULY, 1994

NEG. ON FILE AT AHPP  
DETAIL OF CELL DOOR





OLD SEBASTIAN Co. Jail

GREENWOOD, SEBASTIAN Co., ARKANSAS

PHOTO BY R. BLODWIN

JULY, 1994

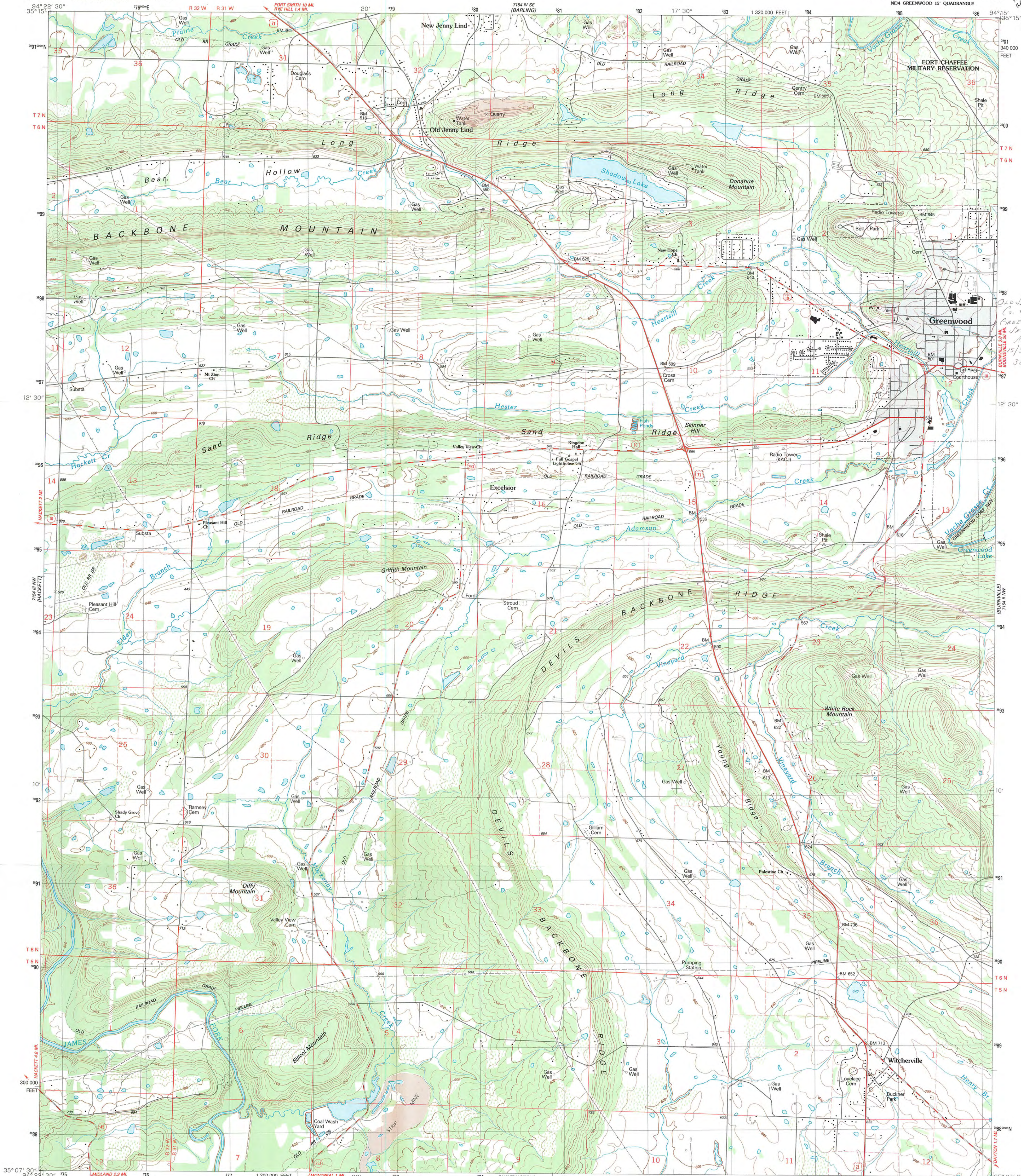
NEG. ON FILE AT AHPP

DETAIL OF INTERIOR ROOM



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

GREENWOOD QUADRANGLE  
ARKANSAS-SEBASTIAN CO.  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1983. Field checked 1985. Map edited 1987  
Supersedes Army Map Service map dated 1951

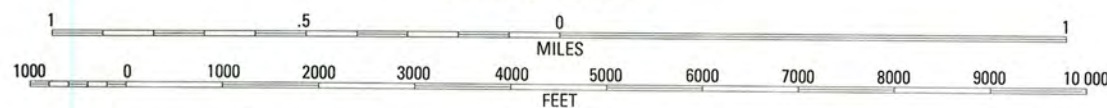
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Arkansas coordinate  
system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic)  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 15  
1927 North American Datum

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,  
move the projection lines 6 meters south and  
19 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of  
the National or State reservations shown on this map

Gray tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

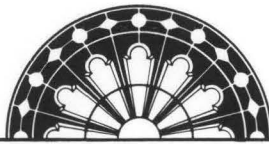
Primary highway,  
hard surface ..... Light-duty road, hard or  
improved surface ....  
Secondary highway,  
hard surface ..... Unimproved road ....  
Interstate Route U. S. Route State Route

GREENWOOD, ARK.  
NE4 GREENWOOD 15' QUADRANGLE  
35094-B3-TF-024

1987

DMA 7154 III NE-SERIES V884





ARKANSAS  
HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
PROGRAM

RECEIVED 413

NOV - 2 1994

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

October 24, 1994

Carol D. Shull  
Chief of Registration  
United State Department of the Interior  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
800 North Capitol Street, Suite 250  
Washington, D.C. 20002

RE: Old Sebastian County Jail  
Greenwood, Sebastian County

Dear Carol:

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

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathy Buford Slater  
State Historic Preservation Officer

CBS:br

Enclosures

