

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE 1849 C Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20240

The attached property, the Cleveland County Courthouse, in Cleveland County, Arkansas, reference number 77000248, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the Keeper of the National Register on 04/11/1977, as evidenced by the FEDERAL REGISTER/WEEKLY LIST notice of Tuesday, February 7, 1978, Part II, Vol. 43, No. 26, page 5169. The attached nomination form is a copy of the original documentation provided to the Keeper at the time of listing.

Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

Date

CITY, TOWN

Ford No. 12306 (Rev. 10-74) 13-14-R095-33

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE NR 4-11-77

MONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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STATE

INVENTORY.	NOMINATION F	ORM DATE ENTER	RED	
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AND/OR COMMON				
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COURTHOUSE.	Main and Magnolia Rison	STATUS _OCCUPIED _UNOCCUPIED _WORK IN PROGRESS ACCESSIBLE _YES: RESTRICTED _YES: UNRESTRICTED _NO ymond J. Sipes, County VICINITY OF	AGRICULTURECOMMERCIALEDUCATIONALENTERTAINMENTGOVERNMENTINDUSTRIALMILITARY	ENT USE MUSEUMPARKPRIVATE RESIDENCRELIGIOUSSCIENTIFICTRANSPORTATIONOTHER:
REGISTRY OF DEEDS,	Circuit Clerk's O	ffice		
STREET & NUMBER	Cleveland County	Courthouse		*
CITY, FOWN			STATE	
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CONDITION

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CHECK ONE

__EXCELLENT

_¥€000 _FAIR _DETERIORATED

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X_ORIGINAL SITE

X_ALTERED

_MOVED DATE____

DESCRIBETHE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE Constructed in 1911 at a cost of \$65,000, the Cleveland County Courthouse is a two-story brick structure with a full basement. Basically retangular in shape, the building measures 100' by 70'.

The Cleveland County Courthouse is topped by a hip roof of tile composition. The four corners of the central wings are marked by quoins. A denticulated cornice extends around the entire building. Windows are double-hung sash and faced with limestone keystones. A limestone water table encircles the structure.

Centered atop the Cleveland County Courthouse is a twenty-foot high clock tower into which is set a four-faced clock. The tower utilizes arched louvered openings below the clock face and an arched cornice above, supported by Tuscan pilasters. The octagonal shaped roof is capped by a small cupola with finial.

The facade (north elevation) is distinguished by a three-bay wide, two story projection. This projection features a parapet and denticulated cornice. Brick quoins mark the corners of the projection. Four Tuscan brick pilasters separate the bays of the projection. Second-story windows are double-hung sash with double-hung sash sidelights and a three-sectioned transom. First-floor windows are flanked by sidelights and feature flush limestone keystones, and label stops. The entry door is marked by a one-story flat roofed portico. Tuscan columns of limestone support the portico. Other features of note on the portico include a denticulated cornice pilasters and feature a transom repeating the star motif in the balustrade.

East and west elevations again with brick quoins and denticulated cornice are each marked by a small centered labeled bay which extends from the hip roof. The double side-entry doors have nine lights each. First-floor windows are flat arched with gauged brick and limestone keystones. A pair of double-hung windows with a star-patterned transom is found at the second-story level.

The south elevation features a three-bay projection similar to that on the north elevation, but without an entry door. Also lacking are the gauged brick flat arches and limestone keystones on all the windows along with the quoins on the central projection.

Noteworthy details of the interior include brightly colored, patterned ceramic floor tiles, marble wainscotting and pressed tin ceilings in an ornamental designs. Only minor interior alterations have taken place in the structure.

As the most architecturally and politically important structure in the county, the Cleveland County Courthouse is a significant historical structure.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW PERIOD _.LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE __COMMUNITY PLANNING RELIGION _PREHISTORIC _ARCHEOLOGY PREHISTORIC _SCIENCE _LAW __CONSERVATION _ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC _1400-1499 _SCULPTURE _LITERATURE _ECONOMICS __AGRICULTURE _1500-1599 _EDUCATION __MILITARY _SOCIAL HUMANITARIAN _1600-1699 MARCHITECTURE _THEATER _MUSIC ART. _ENGINEERING _1700-1799 TRANSPORTATION __EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT __PHILOSOPHY __1800-1899 __COMMERCE XPOLITICS/GOVERNMENT _OTHER (SPECIFY) _INDUSTRY _X900-_COMMUNICATIONS

INVENTION

SPECIFIC DATES

1911

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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

Cleveland County, located in southeast Arkansas, covers 534 square miles. The elevation of the county is almost entirely below 250 feet. Primarily a rural county, the major industry is lumbering and wood products.

Cleveland County was created in 1873 at a time when, near the end of the Reconstruction Era, boundaries for nine new Arkansas counties were drawn.

The dominance of Republican influence at the time resulted in the county being named Dorsey in honor of Stephen W. Dorsey, a Republican senator from Arkansas who entered congress that year. The county seat was established at Toledo and a building constructed to serve as the courthouse.

On March 5, 1885, Dorsey was renamed by an Act of the General Assembly in honor of Grover Cleveland. Portions of Lincoln, Jefferson, Dallas, and Bradley counties were integrated in the new county.

In 1889 the Toledo courthouse and the records within burned. At once there developed a strong movement to move the county seat to a different location which would be more desirable. An election was held to determine the new location, but the outcome was indecisive. In a second election held on August 17, 1889, Rison was chosen as the new county seat. In 1892 a frame courthouse was constructed at a cost of \$8,000.

In 1911 the present Cleveland County Courthouse was constructed at a cost of \$65,000. The architecturally significant structure is two-stories high and of brick construction. The building is basically rectangular in shape and measures 100' by 70'. Distinguishing features of the structure include brick quoins, denticulated cornices, Tuscan pilasters and limestone keystones on first-floor windows. Rising from the center of the hip roof is the structures most distinguishing feature, an octagonal dome which reaches twenty feet above the roofline.

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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ATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE

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Constructed in 1911. the Cleveland County courthouse is the county's most architecturally significant building. This combined with the building's political significance make the courthouse the most significant structure in Cleveland County.

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FORM PRE	PARED BY				
NAME / TITLE	Sandra Taylor,	Historian			
ORGANIZATION				DATE	-
	Arkansas Histo	ric Preserv	ation Program	9-14-76	
STREET & NUMBER				TELEPHONE (501) 371-1639	
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DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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The south elev north elevation flat arches and on the central

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CONDITION

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SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIF
_PREHISTORIC	_ARCHIOLOGY PREHISTORIC	_COMMUNITY PLD
_1400-1495	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	_CONSERVATION
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_X 900-	COMM'INICATIONS	_INDUSTRY
		_INVENTION

SPECIFIC DATES

1911

BUIL

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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	PERIOD	AF	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE - CH	IZCK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
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	_1700-1799	_ART	_ENGINEERING	_MUSIC	_THEATER
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

DATE ENTERED

APR 1 1 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

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MANOR SIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES A Survey of Arkansas Courthouses. compiled by the National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the state of Arkansas, Mrs. W.G. McDonald, chairperson, Historical Activities committee. Arkansas Room, Little Rock Public Library. Herndon, Ballas, Centennial History of Arkansas, Little Rock: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1922. Works Project Administration "Cleveland County". 1941 Archives Arkansas History PR 1 1 1977 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one acre UTM REFERENCES Al 115 6 5 5 5 6 0 1 3 7 5 7 7 3 0 's most ding's VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION ructure in LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES 0 STATE CODE COUNTY CODE STATE CODE COUNTY CODE FORM PREPARED BY NAME / TITLE Sandra Taylor, Historian ORGANIZATION DATE 9-14-76 Arkansas Historic Preservation Program STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE L Appeared to 48 (501) 371-1639 300 West Markham CITY MY TOWN STATE Arkansas Little Pock 8.TATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS NATIONAL ___ As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1968 (Public Law 89-865). 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 TITLE DATE

4P0 \$11-443

DATE

Missing Core Documentation

Property Name Cleveland County Courthouse	County, State Cleveland, Arkansas	Reference Number 77000248
The following Core Docume	ntation is missin	g from this entry:
X Nomination Form (Copi	ies from SHPO ai	nd microfiche
Photographs		
USGS Map		

WASO Form - 177 UNITED STATES D
("R" June 1984) NATION

☐ alterations/integrity

boundary selection

dates dates

Duplicate

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

77000248

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

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leveland County Courthouse Leveland Co. AR	
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	Action:ACCEPT 4/11/77
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Substantive Review: sample request	appeal NR decision
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Nomination returned for: technical corrections cited below substantive reasons discussed by	
	Property of Williams
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2. Location	
3. Classification	
Category Ownership	Status Present Use
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5. Location of Legal Description	lead state state.
6. Representation in Existing Surveys	State Historia Presivation Officer statiture
Has this property been determined eligible?	□ no
7. Description	
	13. Other Committee of the Committee of
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance	Questions concenting this nomination may be directed to
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summary paragraph completeness	
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8. Signif	icance			
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1. CLEVELAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE

CLEVELAND COUNTY, ARKANSAS

FACADE (North Elevation), VIEWED From the North

1. I I DAF APR 1 1 1977

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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RECEIVED OF 18 1978

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DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS

TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Cleveland County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Rison

___VICINITY OF

COUNTY Cleveland STATE Ark.

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Sandra Taylor

DATE OF PHOTO

NEGATIVE FILED AT AHPP

July, 1976

4 IDENTIFICATION

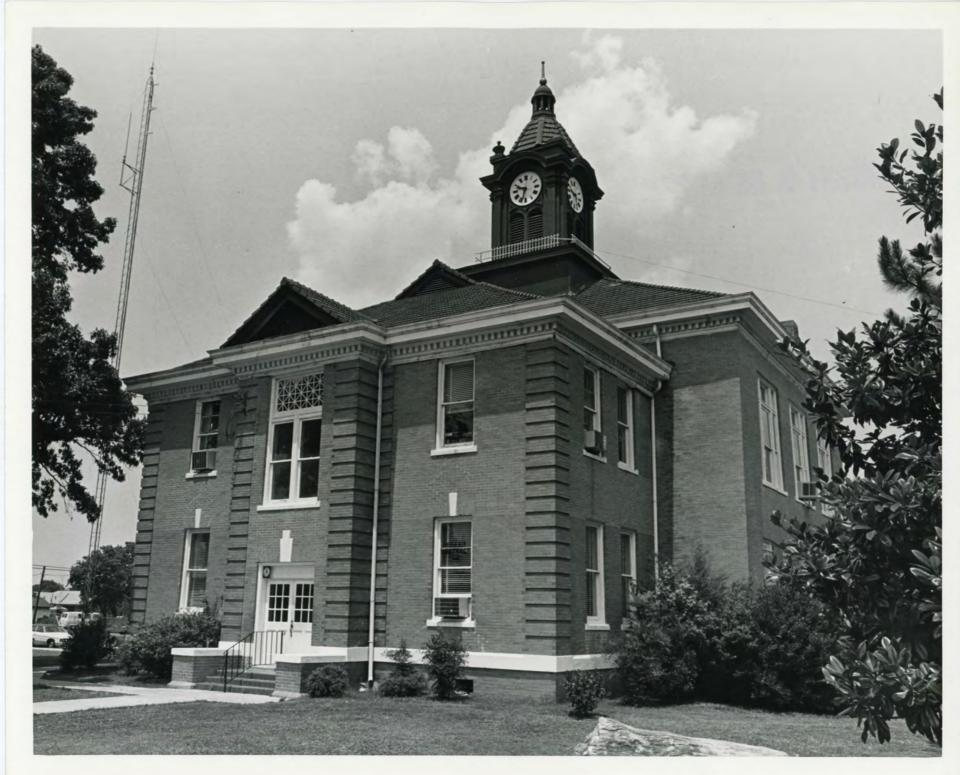
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

FACADE (North Elevation) Viewed from the north

1

INT: 2983-75



2. CLEVELAND COUNTY Courthouse CLEVELAND COUNTY, ACKANSAS EAST ELEVATION, VIEWED from the NorthEAST

2015

D 0 € APR 1 1 1977

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

PRO

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Sandra Taylor

DATE OF PHOTO

NEGATIVE FILED AT AHPP

July, 1976

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET East Elevation , viewed from the northeast

PHOTO NO.

2



3. CLEVELAND COUNTY COUTHOUSE CLEVELAND COUNTY, ATKANS AS South Elevation, VIEWED From the southeast

301

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Sandra Taylor

DATE OF PHOTO July, 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT AHPP

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET South Elevation, viewed from the southeast

РНОТО NO. 3



4. CLEVELAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE

CLEVELAND COUNTY, ALKANSAS

WEST ELEVATION, VIEWED From the WEST

4 of 3

ODE APR 11 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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

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STATE Ark.

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT S

Sandra Taylor

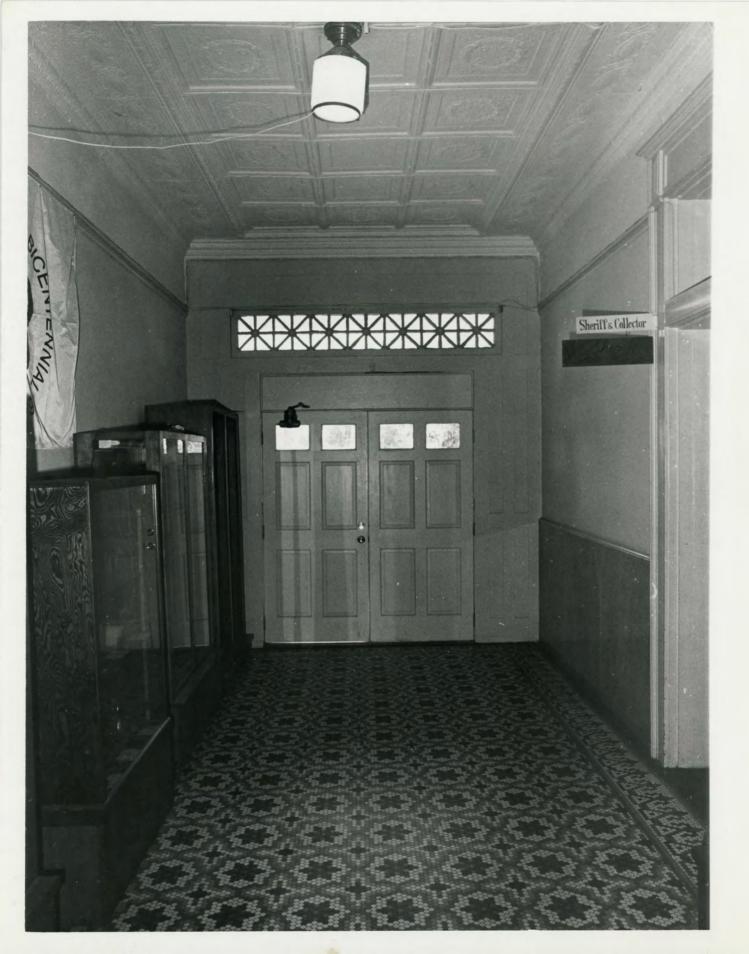
DATE OF PHOTO July, 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT AHPP

4 IDENTIFICATION

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

РНОТО NO. 4



5. CLEVE IAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE

CLEVELAND COUNTY, ARKANSAS

INTERIOR, MAIN LOBBY, NOTE TILE Floors, PRESSED LIN CEILING, MARBIE

5 6 5

DOE APR 11 1977

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STATE Ark.

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Sandra Taylor

DATE OF PHOTO July, 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT AHPP

4 IDENTIFICATION

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

Interior, main lobby, note tile floors, pressed tin ceilings,

marble wainscotting

5

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

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2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Rison

___VICINITY OF

COUNTY Cle

Cleveland

STATE Ark.

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

United States Geological Survey

SCALE

1:24000

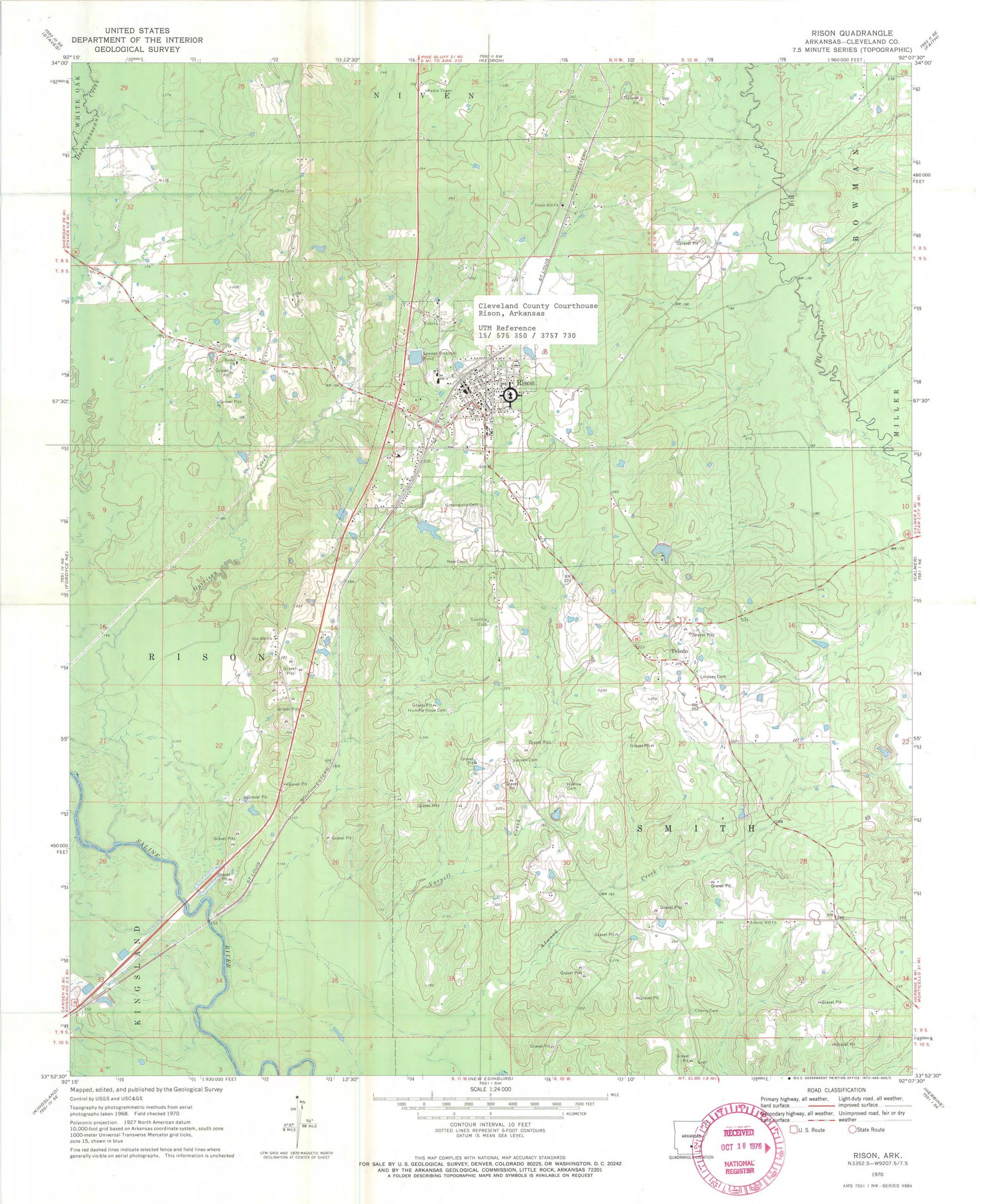
DATE 1970

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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

INT: 2986-75





"THE OLD STATE HOUSE" 300 WEST MARKHAM

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201 TELEPHONE - 501 371-1639

PROPERTY OWNER'S APPROVAL

(3)	umpail O. Sipe	o , am the legal
	Courthouse	
		rolia St, Reson, and

I hereby acknowledge that I have been fully informed and understand the significance of having the aforementioned property placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

I hereby approve the inclusion of the aforementioned property on the National Register of Historic Places.

Owner)

Date