city, town

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

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istoric St. Anthony's Hospi	ital		
and or common			
2. Location			
street & number 202 E. Green	Street	N/ <u>/</u>	not for publication
eity, town Morrilton	N/A_ vicinity of		
atate Arkansas	code 05 county	Conway	code 029
3. Classification			
Category district public building(s)	\underline{X} yes: restricted	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial	museum park park private residence religious scientific transportation
	no	military	X other: VACANT
		military	X other: VACANT
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7. Description

V	cone iginal site oved date
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY

With a view of the Arkansas River to the south and the mountains to the southwest, St. Anthony's Hospital in Morrilton, Conway County, is an imposing three-story Art Deco-inspired brick and stone structure. Designed by Arkansas architect A.N. McAninch in 1935, this unique local example of a popular early twentieth century style was constructed in 1937 following two years of funding difficulties. A planned third floor, evident in the original drawings, was added in 1949 in response to a need for additional facilities. Until 1970, St. Anthony's served as an important regional hospital and today remains the most significant Art Deco structure in this central Arkansas community.

ELABORATION

Possessing a commanding presence on Sayles Hill, three blocks from the heart of Morrilton, St. Anthony's Hospital is one of the community's most impressive structures, for not only is it larger in scale than most, but it is the city's best example of Art Deco design.

The hospital's site, bounded by Green and Moose Streets, is scattered with large hardwood trees. Two concrete drives enter from Green Street on the west and a concrete walk leads from Moose Street to the building's main entrance.

Facing north, the three-story structure is located on the site of the Burrows House, a Colonial Revival residence that served as the first hospital. The frame house was demolished to make room for the present hospital. Salvaged materials were utilized in the construction of a two-story stone residence for the Benedictine Sisters, which until two years ago, was located near the southeast corner of the hospital. A utility building still stands to the rear.

St. Anthony's was designed by A.N. McAninch, a successful Arkansas architect who designed a number of Art Deco-influenced PWA-funded buildings throughout the state. Plans and specifications for St. Anthony's, Job No. 210, reveal that at the time of its initial design, the future addition of a third floor was anticipated. Though the building was originally two stories in height, the third floor, added in 1949, has the appearance of being original, as does the three-story two-bay addition to the west end of the hospital which was added at the same time.

St. Anthony's is of concrete, brick and steel construction. The plan is symmetrical, with two slightly splayed wings joined at the center by front and rear projections. The west wing exceeds the length of the east wing by the two bays added in 1949. A one-story projection on the east end accommodates the chapel/assembly room. Constructed with a basement, the wall above grade is concrete. The dominate material of each elevation is buff brick, with a darker brick laid in vertical bands detailing the spandrels between floors.

Splayed brick pilasters with stone caps and recessed vertical slots above and below the third floor level alternate with paired six-over-six double-hung wood windows. Slender brick pilasters with horizontally-grooved smooth stone caps separate each set of paired windows. The repetition of wide and slender pilasters serve to counteract

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the horizontal emphasis of the plan. Original drawings indicate that steel casement windows with transoms were specified, possibly to satisfy PWA requirements. Wood double-hung windows were substituted, most likely as a result of the change in funding arrangements.

The building's flat roof with parapet is embellished with a stone coping detailed with a continuous chevron pattern. Positioned directly above each third floor window are slender stepped stone pinnacles, the points of which extend above the parapet. A central penthouse with two casement windows on each of its four sides extends above roof.

Located in the center of the front (north) elevation, a two-story projection features a stepped stone frontispiece surrounding a double-doored main entrance. The corners of the projection are accentuated by paired piers detailed similiarly to the pilasters. A pair of windows is positioned above the stone frontispiece and penetrate each floor of the east and west sides of the projection. A glass transom above the wood and glass doors originally was etched with the hospital's name. The smooth stone surrounding the entrance is detailed with vertical grooves and a pair of stylized reliefs of caducei. Steps, flanked by stepped stone pedestles, lead from the walk to the entrance.

The east elevation features a one-story flat-roofed projection with six windows on its east side and three recessed vertical slots in the brick wall of the north side. Detailing of this chapel projection is similiar to the rest of the building. The west elevation was extended in 1949 with the addition of a three-story annex with a high basement. This elevation is detailed identically to the east, with four pairs of windows per floor, including the basement in which was located the chaplain's suite.

The south (rear) elevation is dominated by a five-sided central projection above which rises the penthouse. Curved concrete sundecks with metal railings extend from the second and third floors. The end bays of this elevation project from the corners. Originally, a Potter spiral slide fire escape, which in appearance resembled a metal silo, was attached to the east side of the west corner projection. A one-story flat-roofed kitchen extension was added in 1949.

The interior of St. Anthony's is in deteriorated condition. Central corridors run the length of each floor. Walls are plaster and the simple wood trim is stained and varnished. Green tile wainscot is found in some of the rooms. Multi-colored linoleum tiles laid in a decorative pattern cover the floor.

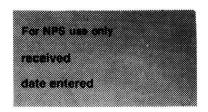
The lobby, which is approximately 900 square feet, is located inside the front entrance. A hexagonal pattern in the plaster ceiling is this space's only ornamentation. An opening in the east wall allows communication between the lobby and the adjacent office. Several steps separate the lobby from the main corridor. The most striking feature of the interior is the curved stair positioned at the center of the building. A curved cantilevered plaster ceiling projects above the stair, creating a dramatic effect in an otherwise utilitarian interior. An elevator is located directly behind the stair and a simple chapel at the east end of the first floor corridor.

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OMB No. 1024-0018 Expires 10-31-87

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When originally built, the hospital had twenty-nine rooms, a laboratory and two operating rooms. With the addition of the third floor and the west annex, the facilities were expanded to include fifty rooms, an emergency room, fracture room, maternity suite, radiology room, an improved dietary department and additional laboratory and surgical space.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric	_		re_X_ religion
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Specific dates	Designed 1935 Constructed 1937	Builder/Architect	J. H. Leveck & Son - Bu A. N. McAninch - Archit	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SUMMARY

St. Anthony's Hospital, located on Sayles Hill in the small central Arkansas River community of Morrilton, was designed in 1935 and constructed in 1937. This facility was one of three Arkansas hospitals then being operated by the Benedictine Sisters of St. Scholastica Convent at Fort Smith, Arkansas, and was the only health care facility of its kind available to this multi-county region of the state. Designed by Little Rock architect A. N. McAninch, St. Anthony's is a unique local example of the Art Deco style. Constructed of buff brick with cast stone ornament, the hospital was originally two stories in height. A planned third floor, evident in the original 1935 drawings, and a one-bay extension to the west, were added in 1949.

ELABORATION

Occupying the highest point in Morrilton, St. Anthony's Hospital is the second medical facility to be located on Sayles Hill. The original St. Anthony's, the first hospital in Conway County, was established in 1925 by the Benedictine Sisters. The history of the Benedictine Sisters in Arkansas dates back to 1880 and the founding of St. Scholastica's Convent in Fort Smith, which followed a significant immigration of Catholic farmers. In 1916 the Sisters first began their involvement with hospital administration when they joined forces with the Benedictine Sisters operating St. Joseph's Hospital in Booneville, Missouri.

Located in the Burrows House, a two-story frame Colonial Revival residence, the first hospital accommodated only fourteen beds. Due to the inadequate facilities and an ever-increasing number of patients, the Sisters decided in 1935 to construct a new hospital on the same site. Following the demolition of the Burrows House, the hospital was temporarily located in a dormitory at Harding College and later at Jones Hospital.

Planned under the name of "Municipal Hospital", Addenda No. 3 to the plans and specifications dated July 6, 1935, formally changed the name of the soon-to-be built hospital to St. Anthony's.

Though designed in 1935, St. Anthony's was delayed by unanticipated funding difficulties that postponed construction until 1937. Originally to be funded through the Public Works Administration (PWA), plans had to be changed when it was determined that the PWA would not fund the project if the Benedictine Sisters were involved. The original plan had centered around a contract between the Sisters and the city, calling for the latter to lease the building for a sum equal to the interest on the loan. Under the contract, the Sisters would be deeded the hospital once the city had repaid the loan. A 1935 Arkansas Gazette article explains that "The PWA officials refused to permit the contract between Morrilton and the Benedictine Sisters to have any part in the application for the loan. Instead, Washington has insisted that the city prepare to pay a five mill tax beginning next year, the proceeds of which to insure the interest

9. Major Bibliographical References

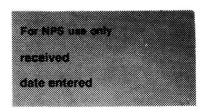
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United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



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and payments on the principal..." Despite the face that a \$60,000 loan containing a 45% grant had been approved by the PWA, funding plans were changed when the city refused to alter its contract with the Sisters. As a result, several changes were made to the plans. To reduce the total project cost, several PWA requirements were eliminated.

Construction of the hospital finally began in January 1937 after new funding had been secured. J. H. Levick & Sons were the contractors for the project. The building was occupied in November and formally dedicated on the 29th of that month.

The hospital was designed in 1935 by A. N. McAninch, a Little Rock architect who designed a number of PWA-funded projects in Arkansas, among them three buildings at Arkansas State College in Jonesboro and Rison High School. Drawings for these, as well as the hospital, published in the PWA Section of the Arkansas Gazette on October 6, 1935, reveal that McAninch frequently designed in the Art Deco style. Earlier a rendering of St. Anthony's appeared in the Arkansas Gazette on June 9, 1935.

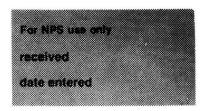
Plans for the hospital called for an initial two-story structure, with a third floor to be added when needed and financially feasible. McAninch's 1935 plans reveal drawings for three floors, with a foundation calculated to accommodate the future third floor. Thus, the building appears to have been built all at once, despite the fact that it was constructed in two stages separated by twelve years.

In 1949, St. Anthony's was still the only hospital in this region of the state and accordingly was feeling the strain of increasing demands on its medical facilities. As a result, Mr. McAninch was once again commissioned along with his partner, Mr. Mahnker, to supervise the addition of the third floor and a one-bay extension to the west side, and other improvements. The \$220,000 necessary to fund this expansion project was secured from several sources: a grant from the federal Hill-Burton Fund, loans from local banking institutions, and a \$25,000 contribution from local businesses and citizens. With the completion of this addition in June of 1950, the St. Anthony's Hospital became one of the most modern and technologically equipped medical facilities in the state.

St. Anthony's continued to supply the only hospital care available to Conway and surrounding counties for more than twenty years. Eventually, the increasing numbers of patients and the lack of up to date medical equipment required the Benedictine Sisters to once again move their hospital to completely new facilities. On April 4, 1970, the doors of St. Anthony's Hospital building were permanently closed.

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WASO Form - 177 ("R" June 1984)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

St. Anthony's Hospi	ital	Substantive	
Conway County			FEB 12 1986
ARKANSAS			Working No.
ARRANSAS			Fed. Reg. Date 2/3/87
			Date Due: 3/13/85 -3/29/86
			Action: LACCEPT 3-28-86
resubmission			0
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owner objection			Federal Agency:
☐ appeal			
Substantive Review:	sample req	uest appea	NR decision
Reviewer's comments:			
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See	actioned		Recom./Criteria Accept A
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Nomination returned for:	technical corrections		
	substantive reasons di	scussed below	Sman signa s
1. Name			
2. Location			
3. Classification			
Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
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4. Owner of Property		12] 13	research did will vision of this property with betsures on t
5. Location of Legal Descr	ription	to the second	tool state familiar
6. Representation in Exist	ing Surveys		Com Historic Production Child of October
Has this property been dete		yes 🔲 no	
7. Description			
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8. Signific	3. Significance						
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9. Major	Bibliographical References						
10. Geog	raphical Data						
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12. State	Historic Preservation Officer Certification		:				
The evalu	uated significance of this property within the state	e is:					
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Question	s concerning this nomination may be directed to _						
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REQUEST FOR DECISION ON PROPERTIES ACHIEVING SIGNIFICANCE WITHIN THE LAST 50 YEARS

Names of	of Nominated Properties: Recomme	ndation:
St. A	Anthony's Hospital A	
	<u> </u>	
Others ((see attached): yes no	
Explanat	ation of recommendation:	
8	attached to this sheet	
8	attached to individual property evaluation/re	eturn sheet
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Reviewer	er: A Sthlagel 3/25/86	
Date:	3/25/86	

Reviewer's Comments

This structure is an extremely significant resource within the context of south central Arkansas, for it represents the historical development of health care in a region with very limited health services. The building was designed by a prominent Arkansas architect for the religious order of St. Benedictine, who served as the sole religious and social/humanitarian organization of this rural section of the state. The hospital was planned in the midst of the depression as a project of the Public Works Administration (PWA). Before construction began, however, the project had to be removed from the PWA administration because of its connection to the religious order. Therefore, the funds for the building had to be raised privately, and the building was not constructed until two years later in 1937.

The building was constructed as a two story building in accordance with the plans published locally. In 1949, a third floor was added to the building. At that time, the coping was removed, and the new floor added. Brick decorative elements were continued to the top, and finished in a new cornice. Two additional bays also added. The form of the building, including the rear center projecting form was not substantially altered and is still highly visible today. The additional story was planned for in the original construction documents.

The nomination form makes a case for the significance of the property as an important resource in the history and development of health care in this region of the state. Its exceptional importance as a 1935-37 resource is demonstrated. Its architectural character is respresentative of a 1930's building, drawn from 1930's plan, although clearly what is visible today is a 1949 form.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ROUTING SLIP

HECK	MAIL STOP 3106	NPS ORG. CODE	OFFICE TITLE	CHECK	MAIL	ORG.	OFFICE TITLE
	3106				CTOD		
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	3320		DIRECTOR		3116	470	ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, NATURAL
	3320		Assistant to the Director				RESOURCES
			Assistant to the Director (Tourism)		3021	475	Air Quality Division (WASO)
	3410		Assistant to the Director		3021	479	Water Resources Division (WASO)
			(Park Initiatives)		3223	480	Energy, Mining & Minerals Div. (WASC
	3106	002	DEPUTY DIRECTOR		L ST.	485	Biological Resources Division
	3127	003	Assistant Director, Office of		L ST.	498	Special Science Projects Division
			Minority Business Enterprise		3120	500	ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK
	1229	010	Bureau Equal Opportunity Officer				OPERATIONS
	1226	022	Special Assistant Policy Development		L ST.	501	Environmental Sanitation Officer
	3043	040	Office of Public Affairs		L ST.	610	Engineering & Safety Services Division
	3211	170	Legislative & Congressional Affairs		3310	650	Visitor Services Division
	3211	180	Legislation		L ST.		Interpretation
	3222	190	Congressional Liaison		3310		Ranger Activities
	3126	200	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, PERSONNEL &		L ST.		Special Programs & Populations
			ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES		L ST.	680	Concessions Division
	L ST.	230	Administrative Services Division		3130	760	ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PLANNING
	3323	240	Personnel Division				DEVELOPMENT
	2328	260	WASO Personnel		1210	762	Environmental Compliance Division
	L ST.	280	Training Division		3013	763	Park Planning & Special Studies Division
	L ST.	1	Albright Training Center		L ST.	765	Recreation Resources Assistance Division
	L ST.	1	Mather Training Center		L ST.	767	Land Resources Division
	3126	300	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, FINANCIAL &		L ST.	770	Cooperative Activities Division
	3120	300	DATA SYSTEMS		L ST.	773	International Park Affairs
	L ST.	310	Finance Division		L ST.	775	Recreation Grants Division
	2711	330	Budget Division				FIELD OFFICES
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		 			L ST.	1100	Harpers Ferry Center (HFC)
		410	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, CULTURAL		L ST.	1200	Rocky Mountain Region (RMR)
7	1 CT	412	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	ļ	L ST.	1600	North Atlantic Region (NAR)
d-	L ST.	413	Interagency Resources Division		L ST.	2000	Denver Service Center (DSC)
	L ST.	418	History Division	ļ	L ST.	3000	National Capital Region (NCR)
		420	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSISTANCE	ļ	L ST.	4000	Mid-Atlantic Region (MAR)
	L ST.	422	Park Historic Architecture Division	-	L ST.	5000	Southeast Region (SER)
	L ST.	424	Preservation Assistance Division		L ST.	7000	Midwest Region (MWR)
	L ST.	429	HABS/HAER Division		L ST.	8000	Southwest Region (SWR) Western Region (WR)
	L ST.	430	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, ARCHEOLOGY		L ST.	9000	Pacific Northwest Region (PNWR)
	L ST.	434	Anthropology Division		L ST.	9700	
	L ST.	436	Archeological Assistance Division	CENTER		9/00	Alaska Region (AR)
REMARK		430	Archeological Assistance Division	CENTR	AL FILES		MAIL ROOM

SIGNATURE

DATE

3-27-86

ROUTING SLIP

(Indicate routing order by number - strike out office when cleared)

CHECK	MAIL STOP	NPS ORG. CODE	OFFICE TITLE	СНЕСК	INTERIOR MAIL STOP	NPS ORG. CODE	OFFICE TITLE
	3106	001	DIRECTOR Assistant to the Director		3116	470	ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, NATURAL RESOURCES
	3320	Î	Assistant to the Director (Tourism)		3021	475	Air Quality Division (WASO)
	3410		Assistant to the Director		3021	479	Water Resources Division (WASO)
			(Park Initiatives)		3223	480	Energy, Mining & Minerals Div. (WASO
	3106	002	DEPUTY DIRECTOR		L ST.	485	Biological Resources Division
	3127	003	Assistant Director, Office of		L ST.	498	Special Science Projects Division
	1229	010	Minority Business Enterprise		3120	500	ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK OPERATIONS
-	1229	022	Bureau Equal Opportunity Officer Special Assistant Policy Development Office of Public Affairs		LCT	601	
		040			L ST.	501	Environmental Sanitation Officer
	3043	170			L ST.	610	Engineering & Safety Services Division
	3211	180	Legislative & Congressional Affairs		3310	650	Visitor Services Division
	3211	190	Legislation Congressional Liaison		L ST.		Interpretation
Contract track	3 444	150			3310		Ranger Activities
	3126	200	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, PERSONNEL &		L ST.	600	Special Programs & Populations
			ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES		L ST.	680	Concessions Division
	L ST.	230	Administrative Services Division Personnel Division		3130	760	ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
	2328	260	WASO Personnel		1210	762	Environmental Compliance Division
	L ST.	280	Training Division		3013	763	Park Planning & Special Studies Division
	L ST.		Albright Training Center		L ST.	765	Recreation Resources Assistance Division
	L ST.		Mather Training Center		L ST.	767	Land Resources Division
CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF	A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PARTY.	200			L ST.	770	Cooperative Activities Division
	3126	300	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, FINANCIAL &		L ST.	773	International Park Affairs
	· cr	210	DATA SYSTEMS		L ST.	775	Recreation Grants Division
	L ST.	310	Finance Division				FIELD OFFICES
	2711	330	Budget Division		L ST.	475	Air Quality Division (Denver)
Salt sweets	L ST.	350	Information & Data Systems Division		L ST.	479	Water Resources Division (Ft. Collins)
	3127	400	ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, CULTURAL		L ST.	480	Energy, Mining & Minerals Division (Denver)
			RESOURCES		L ST.	1100	Harpers Ferry Center (HFC)
		410	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, CULTURAL		L ST.	1200	Rocky Mountain Region (RMR)
			RESOURCE MANAGEMENT		L ST.	1600	North Atlantic Region (NAR)
6113	L ST.	413	Interagency Resources Division		L ST.	2000	Denver Service Center (DSC)
4209	L ST.	418	History Division		L ST.	3000	National Capital Region (NCR)
		420	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, CULTURAL		L ST.	4000	Mid-Atlantic Region (MAR)
			RESOURCES ASSISTANCE		L ST.	5000	Southeast Region (SER)
4141	L ST.	422	Park Historic Architecture Division		L ST.	6000	Midwest Region (MWR)
6329	L ST.	424	Preservation Assistance Division		L ST.	7000	Southwest Region (SWR)
6101	L ST.	429	HABS/HAER Division		L ST.	8000	Western Region (WR)
8220	L ST.	430	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, ARCHEOLOGY		L ST.	9000	Pacific Northwest Region (PNWR)
4319	L ST.	434	Anthropology Division		L ST.	9700	Alaska Region (AR)
8220	L ST.	436	Archeological Assistance Division	CENTR	AL FILES		MAIL ROOM

REMARKS:

Rowland Bowers - L Street - Room 6311
Ron Greenberg - L Street - Room 6307
Mae Simon - L Street - Room 6305
Kari Koester - L Street - Room 6305

	SIGNATURE	DATE
-1		

Associate Director, Cultural Resources



St. Anthony's Hospital
Morrilton, Conway Co.
Front Entrance
Photographed by Don Brown & Mike Swanda
November 1985
Negative on file at AHPP



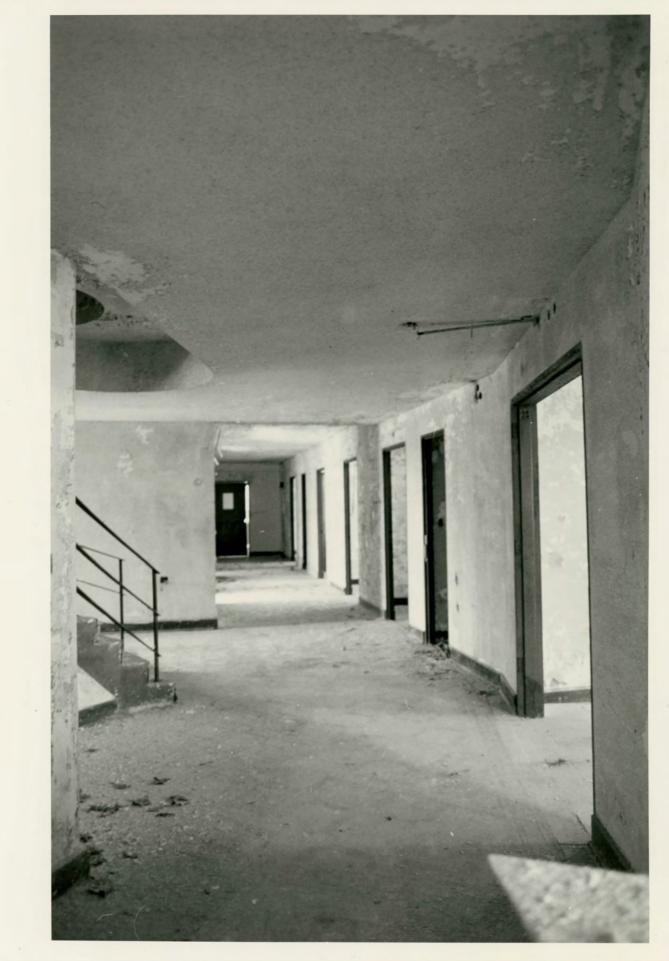
St. Anthony's Hospital
Morrilton, Conway Co.
Rear Elevation
Photographed by Don Brown & Mike Swanda
November 1985
Negative on file at AHPP



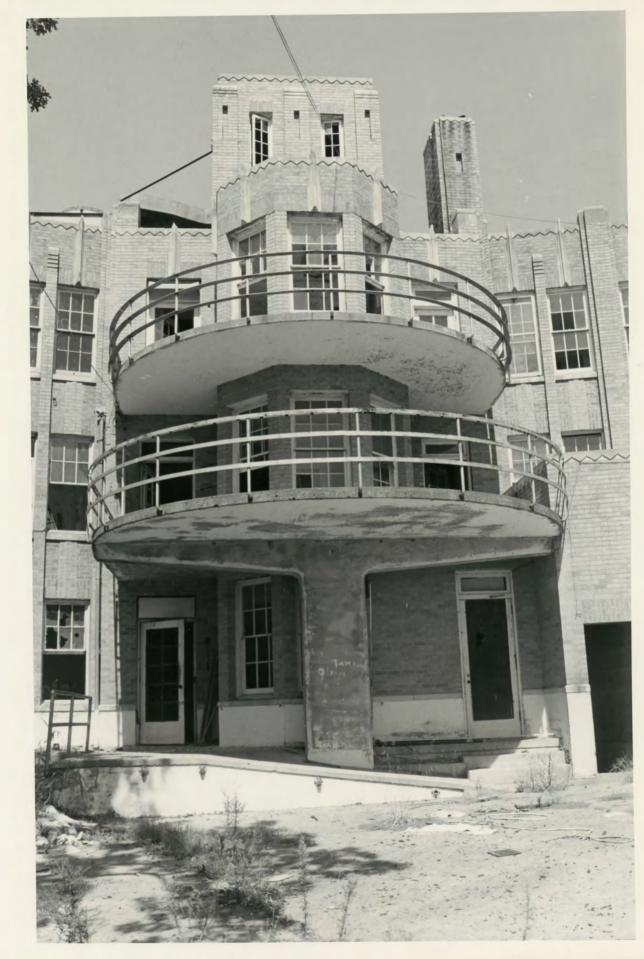
St. Anthony's Hospital
Morrilton, Conway Co.
View from northeast corner
Photographed by Don Brown & Mike Swanda
November 1985
Negative on file at AHPP



St. Anthony's Hospital
Morrilton, Conway Co.
Interior Stair
Photographed by Don Brown & Mike Swanda
November 1985
Negative on file at AHPP



St. Anthony's Hospital
Morrilton, Conway Co.
Main Corridor
Photographed by Don Brown & Mike Swanda
November 1985
Negative on file at AHPP



St. Anthony's Hospital

Morrilton, Conway Co.

Rear Elevation

Photographed by Don Brown & Mike Swanda

November 1985

Negative on file at AHPP



ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

February 5, 1986

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1100 "L" Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20240

Re: St. Anthony's Hospital Morrilton - Conway County

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination for the St. Anthony's Hospital. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

Because this building is an exception to the fifty year criteria, we are requesting substantive review for the nomination.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Wilson Stiles

State Historic Preservation Officer

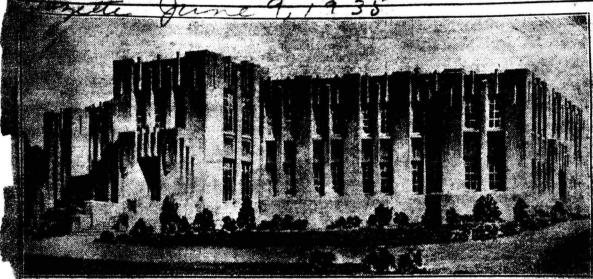
WS/JW/do

Enclosure/s





Structure at Morrilton as Result of Assistance by PWA



DRAWING OF PROPOSED ST. ANTHONY'S HOSPITAL, MORRILTON.

The PWA bond purchase agreement for erection of a new St. Anthony's hospital at Morrilton, involving approximately \$65,000, was signed last week and bids will be sought soon. The plans and specifications have been prepared by A. N. McAninch, Little Rock architect. The hospital will replace the present St. Anthony's inspital operated by the Benedic tine Sisters of Fort Smith. The sisters will use heading at Harding College temporarily until the new heading is completed. The new hospital will be a concrete to the city. The hospital walks will be fireproof, will be at concrete the city. The hospital walks will be fireproof, will be at concrete the city of the stories with a 25-best capacity, two operating resums at missesses. It was a concrete the respective two operating resums at missesses. The last capacity is the city of the city. The hospital has been panding the city of the city