

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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RECEIVED JUL 18 1984
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER Various PAGE 1-13

Ellis County Courthouse

Location: Town Square, Arnett, Oklahoma 40, Ellis County 045

Owner: Ellis County, Court House Square, Arnett, Oklahoma

Description: Condition: excellent, altered, original site

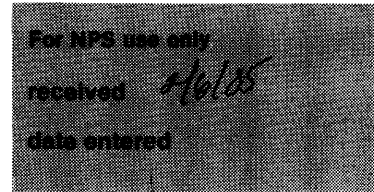
The Ellis County Courthouse is approximately square in shape, built of brick in a running bond pattern, with a water table of reinforced concrete extending around the building at a height of three feet. The building originally had a hipped roof, but it was removed during the early 1930's when a third floor was added to house the county jail. The windows of the first two floors all have hood-molds or dripstones with the exception of the portico lights. A plain stone cornice follows the entire roof shape, both at the old and new roofline. Identical porticos of the Ionic order cover the east and west entranceways. Single unfluted columns support the entablature and each column base rests on a concrete porch with seven steps and a contemporary central metal stairway railing. Above both entranceways is a triple window set in a full elliptical arch. A single toplight with diamond-shaped quarrels covers the arrangement that has a 4/4 central window and a 2/2 on each side. Decorative relieving concrete and brick arches are above both the entranceway and the triple window. These arches each have a decorative keystone and each entrance is flanked by single brick pilasters. The courthouse has new, metal-framed glass doors.

Significance: 1912; Builder/architect: P.H. Weathers/Manhattan, W.E. Hulse/W.M. Rice

This building is historically significant because it symbolized the end of the struggle for the permanent placement of the county seat of Ellis County. With the formation of Ellis County in 1907 from parts of old Day and Woodward Counties, the county seat at Grand was now at the extreme southern edge of the county. To more centrally locate the county government, a contest was held with the towns of Arnett, Shattuck, and Gage entering. In the election held in May of 1908, the towns finished in the above named order, with none gaining a majority. Gage withdrew and threw its support to Arnett, which won the next election. Movements were made to enjoin the moving of the records from Grand as Arnett seemed to have no suitable building to house the records. A temporary building was quickly erected and the records moved on 1 October 1908. The need for a permanent building to settle the county dispute was recognized. Bids were accepted and contracts negotiated. A last attempt to halt the progress by filing a petition for Initiative and Referendum was defeated when the county Attorney ruled the petition illegal. The courthouse was completed in 1912 and finally established residency for the county seat of Ellis County.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number various

Page 2-13

Quadrangle: Arnett, Oklahoma

Acreage: Less than 3 acres

Quadrangle: 1:24,000/7.5 minute

Verbal Boundary Description: A 300' town square bounded on the north by Renfrow Avenue; South--Barnes Avenue; East--Adams St.; West--Washington St., being the SW/4 of Sec. 9, Township 19, Range 24.

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