DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS CITY, TOWN

PH0351547

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

SEE	INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW T	TO COMPLETE NATION COMPLETE APPLICAE		
NAME	TITE ALL ENTRIES	CONTELLERITEICAL	SEE SECTIONS	The sale of
HISTORIC M				
	ttle River County Cou	rthouse		
AND/OR COMMON				
T OCA MION	•			JOHN TA
LOCATION				
STREET & NUMBER				
	ain and Second Streets	Maria James All Land	NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
CITY, TOWN	ah daran		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRI	CI
	shdown	_ VICINITY OF	Fourth	CODE
STATE	kansas	CODE 05	COUNTY Little River	081
CLASSIFIC			HICCIG KIVEL	001
CLASSIFIC	DATION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESE	NTUSE
DISTRICT	X_PUBLIC	XOCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
XBUILDING(S)	PRIVATE	_UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
_STRUCTURE	вотн	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RES
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	X_GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	X_YES: UNRESTRICTED	_INDUSTRIAL	_TRANSPORTA
		_NO	MILITARY	_OTHER:
OWNER O	E DD ODED TV			
OWNERO	F PROPERTY			
NAME Litt	cle River County (Hoye	Horn, County Judge		
STREET & NUMBER				
Litt	le River County Court	house		
CITY, TOWN			STATE	
Ashd	lown	_ VICINITY OF	Arkansas	arrowald.
LOCATION	N OF LEGAL DESCI	RIPTION		
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS	GETC. Clerk's Office			
STREET & NUMBER		STATE OF SHERBIRE	Jenny Complete	COLE UE
CITY TOWN	Little River Con	urthouse		
CITY, TOWN	Nahdor-		STATE	
	Ashdown		Arkansas	

STATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

X_UNALTERED

__ALTERED

CHECK ONE

MOVED DATE

MOVED

M

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Little River County Courthouse is a two storey brick structure topped with an impressive octagonal dome. Constructed in 1907, the red brick building has a square floor plan with the dome rising from the center of the hipped roof.

The northeast facade features a two storey portico with the brick pediment rising above the roofline. The pediment displays a semi-circular arch trimmed in white. Projecting about six feet from the facade, the porch is semi-enclosed with ell-shape brick columns on either end. Set into the porch opening are two round, tapering columns with Ionic capitals. The porch shelters the center bay of the facade and covers the primary entrance to the courthouse.

This symmetrical structure is surrounded by a water table at the base and a dentiled cornice over brick corbelling just below the roofline. In contrast to the dark red brick, these and other architectural details are worked in white.

All windows have cast stone lugsills; window heads on the second storey are set in rectangular frames, while those on the ground floor feature simple pediments. The three secondary entries have similar pediments above. Along with the main entry, the center bay, second-storey windows on both the front and rear elevations have wide transoms with a lattice-like design. Somewhat like the facade, the center bay on the rear elevation rises slightly higher than the flanking bays.

The center of the building is covered with a hip roof which flattens out around the edges. Set into the hip roof is a massive octagonal dome covered with silver-colored tiles. At the base of the segmental dome each side has a horizontally set rectangular window filled with small square lights:

Though the dome dominates the structure, several smaller features add an interesting touch to the courthouse. The dentiled cornice, pediment covered doors and windows and Ionic capitaled columns give the building a classical flavor.

Set in the center of a tree shaded city block, the building rests near the railroad tracks which were responsible for Ashdown's origin. As the city's most architecturally significant structure, the Little River County Courthouse is also the most prominent landmark in the county.

PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
_1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
_1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1800-1899	COMMERCE	_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION
x_1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	X.POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1907

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Sidney Stewart

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The largest number of architecturally significant public buildings in Arkansas are the courthouses scattered over the state's seventy-five counties. As the center of local politics, the county courthouse is often the largest and most costly building in the county. The Little River County Courthouse in Ashdown is one of the most significant local landmarks in this area of southwest Arkansas.

Named for the water-way which marks its northern boundary, Little River County was organized on March 5, 1867, from portions of Hempstead and Sevier Counties. The first county court was held at the William Freeman House (now destroyed), located about ten miles northeast of Richmond. The following year the county seat was moved to Rocky Comfort near the western edge of the county.

Following a vote of the people in 1880, the county seat was moved to Richmond and housed in a structure containing four office rooms on the ground floor and a large courtroom above. In 1882 the courthouse burned, and for a time vacant buildings and even the school were used to house county offices and sessions of court. Eventually the citizens of Richmond donated enough money to construct a new courthouse.

When the railroads came to Little River County in the 1890's new towns sprang up. The most prominent railroad town was Ashdown, which developed where the Peytonville-Richmond Road crossed the Texarkana-Fort Smith Railroad. Within a few years the residents of Ashdown were petitioning to have the county seat moved to their new community; however, at the same time the Rocky Comfort community was petitioning for the return of the county seat.

Texarkana, April 28.—The celebrated Little River County seat contest case was called for trial here today before Judge Smith of Camden, sitting as special judge. The testimony, which is mostly in the shape of depositions, is very voluminous, and the trial will in all probability occupy several days. The fight is between Rocky Comfort and Ashdown, both of which are represented by a great array of the best legal talent in the state. Each wants to be the county seat. *

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arkansas Gazette, April 29, 1903.

Act

Beasley, Bill. "History of Little River County." Unpublished manuscript on file with Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 1976.

A Survey of Arkansas Courthouses. Compiled by the National Society of Colonial

Dames of America Historical Activ	in the State of titles Committee	f Arkansas. . Arkansas I	Mrs. W. G. McDonal Room, Little Rock P	d, Chairman, ublic Library.
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DA ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY UTM REFERENCES		EXCELORATION SET OF PROPERTY O	MMERCE MMUNICATIONS	02 - end .0081 - 0081 -
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
Dianna Kirk, ORGANIZATION		20013 S0017 o	DATE	Partition .
Arkansas Hist STREET & NUMBER	oric Preservation	on Program	3-9-76 TELEPHONE	05 White A 200
300 West Mark	ham		(501) 371-	-1639
CITY OR TOWN Little Rock			STATE	
12 STATE HISTORIC PR	RESERVATION	N OFFICER	AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PERSON	N
			WITHIN THE STATE IS:	
NATIONAL	STAT	E	LOCAL X	
As the designated State Historic Presentereby nominate this property for incorriteria and procedures set forth by the STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE	lusion in the National F e National Park Service.	Register and certify		
TITLE State Historic Pre	servation Progra	am	DATE 3-9-	76
FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFIC THAT THIS PR	PERVIOLUDED	IN THE NATIONAL	REGISTER DATE 9/2	9/96
DE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLO ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGIS	Mutt	RESERVATION	DATE S	12/76
The state of the s	- 0			

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 3 1 1976

DATE ENTERED SEP 2 9 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8 PAGE one

Rocky Comfort was again declared the county seat, but a few years later another election was held. Ashdown was then declared the winner, and in 1906 County Judge T. B. Arnett ordered the records moved to the Mizell-Locke Building located west of the railroad tracks. In 1907 a permanent courthouse was constructed, thus helping to insure Ashdown's claim to be the county seat.

Architect Sidney Stewart designed this two-storey brick courthouse. The building has a square floor plan with entrances on all four elevations. Rising from the center of the hipped roof is the structure's most striking feature, an octagonal dome rising a full-storey above the roofline. Other features, including the Ionic-capital columns on the east and south elevations, pediments over first floor doors and windows and dentils around the cornice, give a classical touch to the simple architectural style.

Constructed in 1907, the present courthouse has housed the county seat longer than any other building. As the largest and most significant structure in Ashdown, the courthouse is also an architectural and historic landmark in Little River County. It rests on its original tree-shaded site, the court square at Ashdown.

^{*} Arkansas Gazette, April 29, 1903.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE one

Works Progress Administration: Federal Writer's Project Manuscript, Little River County, circa 1940. Archives, Arkansas History Commission.

Property Little River County Courthouse		
State Ark Working Number 3.31.76.2899	76000427	
TECHNICAL Photos Maps/ 2 cont. sheets	CONTROL 0K 4.6.76	
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	KEEPER 9/27/74	
National Register Write-up Send-back Federal Register Entry /1-2-76 Re-submit	Entered SEP 2 9 1976	



Little River County Courthouse Ashdown, Askansas

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECIEVED MAR 3 1 1976

DATE ENTERED SEP 2 9 19/6

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS

TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Little River County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

___VICINITY OF

STATE Arkansas COUNTY Little River

Ashdown

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Dianna Kirk

DATE OF PHOTO January, 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

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

Southeast elevation and northeast facade, viewed from the east

РНОТО NO.

1



Sittle River County Courthouse Ashdown, Arkansas

2

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

RECIEVED MAR 3 1 1976

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1 NAME

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Little River County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

___VICINITY OF

STATE Arkansas COUNTY Little River

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Dianna Kirk

Ashdown

DATE OF PHOTO January, 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

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

Northwest and southwest elevations, viewed from the west

PHOTO NO.

Form No.10-301 4 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

MAR 3 1 1976

DATE ENTERED

SEP 2 9 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Little River County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

___VICINITY OF

COUNTY

STATE

Little River

Arkansas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

U.S.G.S., Ashdown West Quadrangle

SCALE

1:24,000

Ashdown

DATE 1950

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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

WASO-16	56
(August	1971)

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

26 June 1976

TELEPHONE REPORT		2.00	AM PM	
1. CALL X TO; FROM (Name)	2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)			
DIANNA KIRK	ARK.			
3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.				
LITTLE RIVER COUNTY	COORTHOUSE			

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

ATTACHMENT BETWEEN TWO BUILDINGS IS ENCLOSED WALKWAY - It seems wall to consider original Juilduig olone

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE APKANSAS

Date Entered SEP 2 9 1976

Name

Location

Herrn House

Evening Shade Sharp County

Little River County Courthouse

Ashdown Little River County

Philadelphia Methodist Church

Larkin (Melbourne vicinity)

Izard County

Stone County Courthouse

Mountain View Stone County

Also Notified

Hon. John L. McClellan

Hon. Dale Bumpers Hon. Bill Alexander Hon. Ray Thornton

> Regional Director, Southwest Region

PR Mott

9/29/76

State Historic Preservation Officer
Ms. Anne Bartley
Acting Director, Department of Natural
and Cultural Heritage
The Old State House
300 West Markham
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

INT: 2950-75

Con Con

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 26 JUNE 1976

Reviewer INITIALS:

NR DOE 29 1976

RIVER COUNTY CORTHODSE NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER! OTHER NAMES: LOCATION: STREET & NUMBER MAIN AND ZND STREET CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT - VICINITY OF code KIVER OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME): . ADMINISTRATOR (underline) NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N.ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST FEATURES: EXTERIOR INTERIOR Substantially intact-2 Substantially intact-1 unknown - 4 - Substantially intact-3 __unknown.-5 __:unknown -6 _ not applicable - 8 _ not applicable - 7 _Not applicable-9 _Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0 ORIGINAL SITE LUNALTERED __DETERIORATED CONDITION -_EXCELLENT ∠GOOD _RUINS _Unknown _Reconstructed __UNEXPOSED -FAIR _Unexcavated _Excavated Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown historic district? WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? IF YES, NAME: WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? NO IF YES, NAME: ADAPTIVE USE: YES Saved? YES FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words) SIGNIFICANCE: _LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE __RELIGION _ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC _entertainment _ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC _LAW/Gov't/politics _science __CONSERVATION _health AGRICULTURE __ECONOMICS _recreation ARCHITECTURE __EDUCATION _MILITARY _SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN _settlement __ENGINEERING _MUSIC _socio/cultural COMMERCE _EXPLORATION. __PHILOSOPHY __TRANSPORTATION _urban & commun __COMMUNICATIONS _INDUSTRY POLITICS/GOVERNMENT _OTHER (SPECIFY) planning _JNVENTION Claims

"coldest" YES SNO

"first" YES NO

"only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: CLASSICAL REVIVAL DLEMENS architect/m.builder: SIDNEY STEWART engineer: landscape/garden designer: artist/artisan: interior decorator: builder/contractor: ETHNIC GROUP: NAMES: personal (label role appropriate date) events institutional DATES: DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS: HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): SOURCE: (OF NOMINATION) LOCAL GOV"T FEDERAL AGENCY: ACREAGE: (to nearest tenth of an acre) COMMENTS: (include architectural information here) RECTANGULAR, huncated TAGONAL Donce, projecting front centur, galiled such in with dishiple 2-strug dishiple Inic entrance portice in antis, pedimiented corners. Reo-Classical Revival eliment JILION WITH CO Served as seat affere