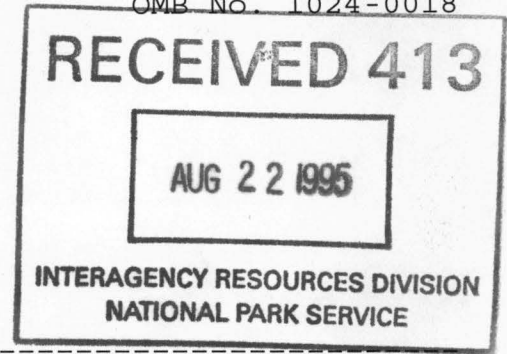


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



=====

1. Name of Property

=====

Historic Name: Franklin County Courthouse

Other Name/Site Number: FR 0020

=====

2. Location

=====

Street & Number: 211 West Commercial

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Ozark

Vicinity: N/A

State: AR County: Franklin Code: AR 047 Zip Code: 72949

=====

3. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property: Public

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> sites
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> structures
<u>2</u>	<u>3</u> objects
	<u>4</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.

Cathryn A. Slater
Signature of certifying official

August 14, 1995
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 9.22.95

Entered in the
National Register

for
Signature of Keeper

Date
of Action

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic: Government Sub: Courthouse

Current : Government Sub: Courthouse

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification:

Other: Classical Moderne

Materials: foundation Concrete roof Asphalt
walls Brick other Stone

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

Summary

The Franklin County Courthouse at 211 W. Commercial Street in Ozark is a two-story brick building that was originally constructed in 1904 in a dual-towered, Italian Renaissance-style design. After a fire severely damaged the building in 1944, the courthouse was rebuilt with flat roofs, shortened towers, and a minimum of detail.

Elaboration

Situated in the center of a city block at 211 West Commercial in Ozark, the Franklin County Courthouse was originally constructed in 1904-05 as a two-story brick structure measuring sixty-four feet by eighty-two feet with a 114 feet tall clock tower on the northwest corner and a smaller, eighty-four feet-high tower with an open arched arcade on the northeast corner. The courthouse rested upon a full basement and was covered by a large hipped roof with dormers and several projecting brick chimneys. Both towers were also capped with hipped roofs. Based on a colorized postcard and from oral interviews, it has been determined that the courthouse had a distinct polychromed effect with brown brick on the first story arranged in horizontal belts, perhaps to resemble stone, while the second story was clad with a traditional red brick.

Noted Little Rock architect, Frank Gibb, designed the building in a classical vein with significant Italian Renaissance style influence, which is seen largely in the numerous arched windows on the front elevation and two towers. The main entrance on the north elevation featured a one-story, projecting-

gable porch with a classical pediment supported by two columns. Five large arched windows lighted the second story on this elevation. The courthouse also contained identical double-leaf door entrances on the east and west elevations which lacked the projecting gable roof of the front elevation, but were nevertheless adorned with a mid-story pediment over a pair of staircase windows. Fenestration for the courthouse was provided by one-over-one, double-hung windows.

On Monday, January 10, 1944, the courthouse was extensively damaged by a fire, which completely gutted the second story destroyed the roof. The first story remained essentially intact except for some damage to the Circuit Clerk's office. On February 21, 1944, T. Ewing Shelton, an architect from Fayetteville, was hired to reconstruct the courthouse, and Tom Eads, also of Fayetteville, was employed as the contractor.

The "new" courthouse was completed in September, 1945, and was greatly changed from the original design. The first-story brick remained, but the upper floor was faced with new, buff-colored brick. Flat roofs behind concrete parapets appeared in place of the steeply pitched hipped roofs on both the main section and the towers, and the chimneys disappeared. The clocktower was shortened to just above the clock face, and the pair of long, arched windows on the northern and western sides were supplanted with rectangular glass-block windows. The northeast tower was shortened to just a few feet above the main roofline and lost the open arcade.

On the front elevation, the projecting-gable porch was removed, and the second-story arched windows were replaced with rectangular, multi-pane windows. The pedimented entrances on the western and eastern elevations were removed and replaced with a pair of windows on the first story. The mid-level staircase windows were filled, and the windows re-positioned to the second story proper. Other than the front entrance, the courthouse can be entered through an unadorned single-leaf door on the rear, or southern, elevation.

The interior was remodeled on both floors and lacks any distinctive ornamentation other than marble wainscoting in the halls.

Since the 1944-1945 reconstruction, the courthouse has undergone a few alterations. In May, 1983, the 1944 multiple-pane windows were replaced due to deterioration with aluminum-frame windows at a cost of \$10,528.83. In the same year, the exterior brick was sandblasted and a clearcoat applied. A new roof was added in January of 1984, and in October, 1985, a new boiler was installed. A wheelchair access ramp was constructed by the Cass Job Corp in November, 1986.

Although the courtyard is outlined by a c. 1905 eighteen-inch high concrete wall forming an octagon, the grounds are nonetheless referred to as the "square." Within the square are four noncontributing resources. In 1991, the Ozark Rotary Club erected a gazebo on the southeast corner of the lawn that somewhat replicates a historic structure of similar size that was once located on the west side of the courthosue. Also in 1991, the Veterans Memorial on the front lawn was expanded with the addition of a Civil War monument, bringing the total number of monuments to three.

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8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1904-1945

Significant Dates: 1944

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Gibb, Frank. (1904 construction)
Shelton, T. Ewing. (1944 construction)
Eads, Tom. (1944 contractor)

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Summary

The Franklin County Courthouse in Ozark is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance for its depiction of 1940's architectural trends.

Elaboration

Franklin County was created in 1837 from part of Crawford County. The town of Ozark was laid out in the same year by David Walker, Archibald Yell, and William Hale. In March, 1838 the first county court was held in a small log school house that was lacking both windows and doors. During the 1839-40 county court term, construction of a new courthouse was authorized and James W. Pendleton appointed building commissioner. Specifications for the new courthouse, which was to be positioned on the northwest corner of the square, called for a twenty feet-square, single-story, frame structure with three fifteen-light windows (each pane measuring eight by ten inches), one door, and a stone chimney. A bid of \$400 by county treasurer, D. L. Bourland, was accepted. A later vote by the court substituted a stove for the chimney.

By the late 1840's, the population growth of the county necessitated a new and larger courthouse. Kendall Webb designed the new courthouse and a bid of \$2,450 was accepted in October, 1848. The new two-story brick building in

the center of the square was apparently completed by the July, 1851 term for it is recorded that Webb refused to accept the new building until exterior stairs were added to the second story. According to *The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northwestern Arkansas*, the courthouse was once occupied during Civil War by Federal troops, who "cut port-holes through the brick walls" for use as a fortification. Later, the Union troops decamped and the Confederates captured their supplies and burned the building.

The third county courthouse was similar to its predecessor, although about four feet longer on each elevation, and utilized two sides of the old foundation. This courthouse was authorized in 1869, and an initial bid of \$9,700 escalated to \$13,000 by the time of completion. The third courthouse served the county until 1904 when Judge Mansfield successfully lobbied for a new courthouse. The building commission headed by J. T. Greer obtained the services of noted Little Rock architect, Frank W. Gibb, in May, 1904 and hired Edward L. Koonce of Warren as the contractor a month later. Interestingly, Gibb also designed the current Franklin County Courthouse for the southern district seat in Charleston in 1923 (NR 10/18/76).

By August 1904, the existing courthouse had been demolished and the new foundation excavated. Gibb designed an elegant, Italian Renaissance-inspired, two-story brick courthouse with an imposing clock tower and a shorter tower with an open arched arcade. The new structure was officially completed on July 7, 1905. Franklin County paid for the courthouse by issuing \$60,300 in county script.

Unfortunately, on Monday, January 10, 1944 during a freezing rain, the courthouse was extensively damaged by a fire believed to have initiated from a flue serving the stove in the Farm Security Administration office. While the second story was completely gutted and the roof destroyed, the ground floor remained essentially intact except for some damage to the Circuit Clerk's office. The clocktower piece continued to maintain time with only a brief interruption, even though the faces eventually burned. Most of the county records were saved due to the quick response of the county employees and volunteers. The local boy and girl scouts were cited for their assistance in removing library books in the basement.

Following the fire, court offices were relocated to the Arcade Building next to the Bank of Ozark. On February 21, 1944, T. Ewing Shelton, an architect from Fayetteville, was employed by the county to prepare plans, specifications and estimates of reconstruction costs. Franklin County Judge N. L. Mayner approved the initial repair work on March 20th, and Tom Eads of Fayetteville was hired as contractor. A much more extensive reconstruction followed, and the "new" courthouse opened for business in September, 1945.

The reconstruction essentially stripped the formerly exuberant Italian Renaissance-style detail from the structure and remodeled the building to reflect a more streamlined and severe aesthetic. The resulting hybrid was reminiscent of the WPA-constructed, Classical Moderne-styled courthouses of the 1930's, yet its appearance also reflected the current architectural trend in Arkansas toward International-style simplicity. As such, the Franklin County Courthouse in Ozark is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

Ree, Freddy. "Franklin County Courthouse History." April 15, 1992, and other information submitted for National Register application.

The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northwestern Arkansas.
Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889.

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:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other state agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☒ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other -- Specify Repository: _____

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property: Approximately one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>425020</u>	<u>3927100</u>	B	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
C	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	D	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Verbal Boundary Description:

Courthouse Square bounded by Commercial (U.S. Hwy. 64), 3rd St., Main St., and 2nd St.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary includes the historic courthouse, the contributing concrete wall, the noncontributing gazebo, the three noncontributing war memorials, and all of the property historically associated with this resource that retains its integrity.

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: Patrick Zollner, Architectural Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: August 14, 1995

Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. 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 Franklin County Courthouse
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Franklin

DATE RECEIVED: 8/22/95 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/06/95
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/22/95 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/06/95
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 95001123

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 _____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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



Franklin Co. Courthouse
Ozark, Franklin Co., Ark.
Photograph by H. Barry
April 1995
Negative on file at AHPP
View from the north



Franklin Co. Courthouse
Ozark, Franklin Co., Ark.
Photograph by H. Barry
April 1995

Negative on file at ANPP
View from the west



Franklin Co. Courthouse
Ozark, Franklin Co., Ark.
Photograph by H. Barry
April 1995

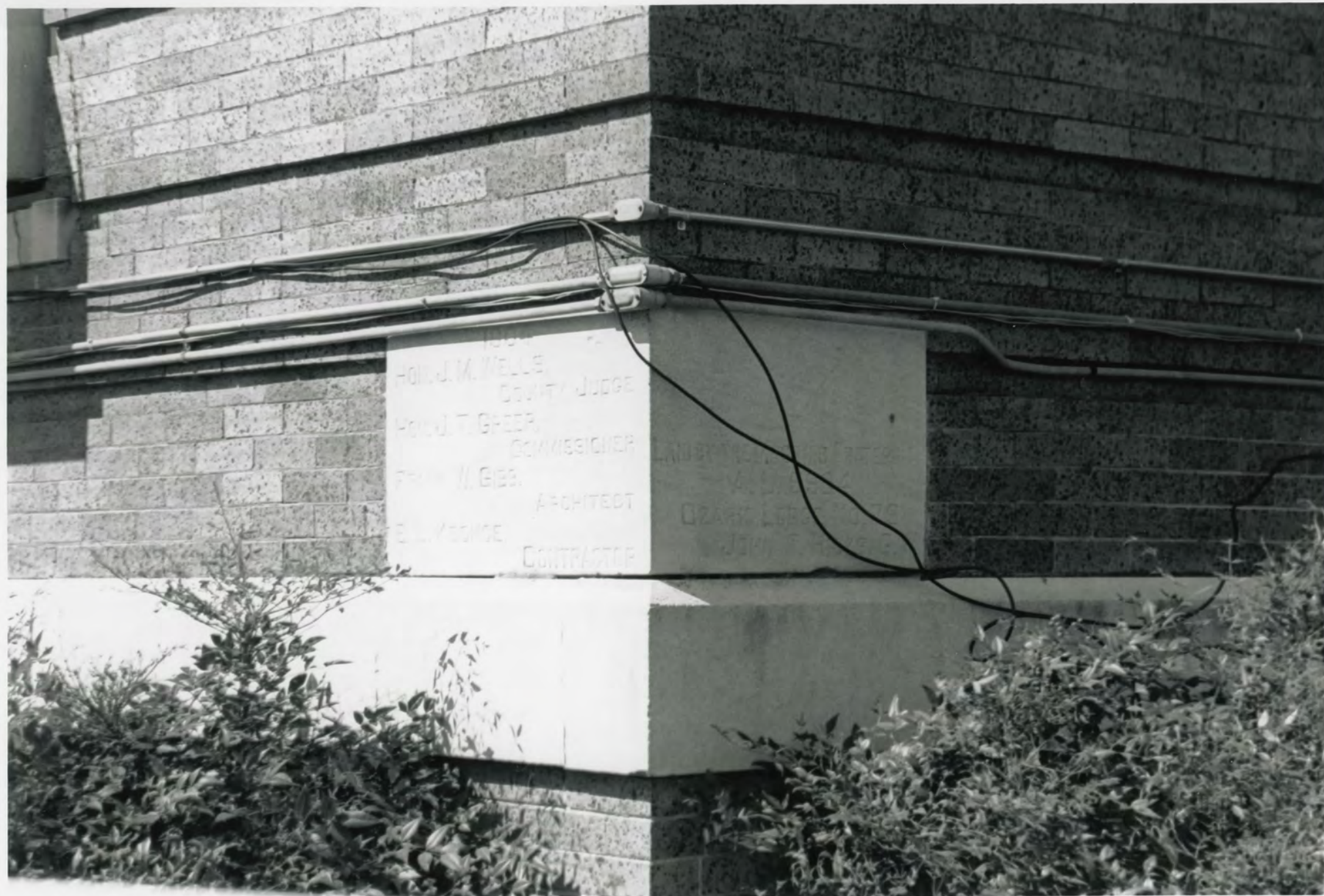
Negative on file at AHPP
View from the southwest



Franklin Co. Courthouse
Ozark, Franklin Co., Ark.
Photograph by H. Barny
April 1995
Negative on file at AHPD
View from the south



Franklin Co. Courthouse
Ozark, Franklin Co., Ark.
Photograph by H. Barry
April 1995
Negative on file at AFPP
View of second-story courtroom



HON. J. M. WELLS
COUNTY JUDGE
HON. J. T. GREER
COMMISSIONER
FRANK W. GIBB
ARCHITECT
E. L. YOUNG
CONTRACTOR

ANDERSON & SONS
— 14 —
GRANT L. BROWN
JOHN F. BROWN

Franklin Co. Courthouse
Ozark, Franklin Co., Ark.
Photograph by H. Barry
April 1995
Negative on file at AHPD
View from the northeast

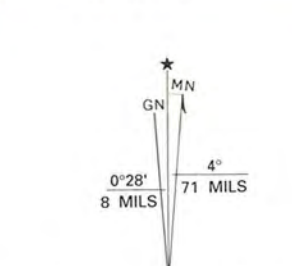


Franklin Co. Courthouse
Ozark, Franklin Co., Ark.
Photograph by H. Barry
April 1995
Negative on file at AHPP
View of second-story courtroom

Franklin Co. Courthouse
Ozark, Arkansas
UTM: 15/425020/3927100



Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA and USCE
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1962. Field checked 1966. Revised from aerial photographs
taken 1989-90. Field checked 1992. Map edited 1993
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Arkansas coordinate
system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue
1927 North American Datum (NAD 27)
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks
The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute
intersections are given in USGS Bulletin 1875
Unlabeled wells are gas wells
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



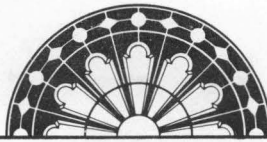
SCALE 1:24,000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

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

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route



OZARK, ARK.
35093-D7-TF-024
1993
DMA 7254 IV NE-SERIES V884



ARKANSAS
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
PROGRAM

August 14, 1995

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: Franklin County Courthouse
Ozark, Franklin County

Dickerson, N.E. Store
Oark, Johnson County



Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nominations of the above referenced properties. 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

