

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

3997

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse

Other names/site number: CG0045, Church Street Station

Name of related multiple property listing: \_\_\_\_\_

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

### 2. Location

Street & number: 524 South Church Street

City or town: Jonesboro State: Arkansas County: Craighead

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

\_\_\_A \_\_\_B XC \_\_\_D

	<u>4-8-19</u>
<b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<u>Arkansas Historic Preservation Program</u>	
<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Title :</b>	<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>

Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse

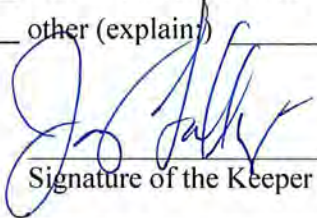
Craighead County,  
Arkansas  
County and State

Name of Property

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

  
Signature of the Keeper

5-29-2019  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse  
Name of Property

Craighead County,  
Arkansas  
County and State

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	structures
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register           

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT: Courthouse  
GOVERNMENT: Post Office

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse  
Name of Property

Craighead County,  
Arkansas  
County and State

---

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Renaissance

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick, Stucco,

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

---

### Summary Paragraph

The former Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse is an excellent example of Renaissance Revival style built between 1911 and 1913 in Jonesboro, Arkansas. Designed by architect James Knox Taylor, the Treasury Department's Supervising Architect, for the City of Jonesboro, Arkansas, and the Eastern District of Arkansas. This great, three-story masonry and stucco clad building was built in 1913, and features large dormers, large overhanging eaves, decorative rafter tails and large six-over-six, four-over-four, and three-over three, double-hung windows, exemplifying the taste and ideals articulated in the Italian Renaissance Style of architecture. The building was enlarged in 1936 to add more floor space for the post office and courtroom. The site originally housed a Victorian house with a wrap-around front porch, with a conical roof at the south end of the porch. This two-story building, with a one-story addition, and full-length rear porch, was still standing as late as 1908, but it is unknown when it was razed to make way for the U.S. Post Office and Courthouse.

Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse

Craighead County,  
Arkansas  
County and State

Name of Property

The Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse faces west and is located at the intersection of South Church Street and West Jackson Avenue, just to the east of the courthouse square. The building offers a remarkable contrast to the nearby Twentieth-century commercial buildings, which are located in the blocks surrounding the Federal Building. The three-story building rests on a brick foundation, and has walls of load-bearing red brick in a common bond pattern. The overall massing of the building is rectangular, and is covered by a hipped roof with multiple dormers. The exterior cladding of the building is repeated on all of the elevation and consists of a limestone base, followed by a red-brick common bond pattern with each of the header courses, recessed. The red brick portion of the building is followed by original stucco, before reaching the top of the third-story.

---

## Narrative Description

### FRONT FAÇADE / WEST ELEVATION

The front façade of the former Federal Building faces west and is situated facing South Church Street. The front entrance of the building is centrally located on the front façade and is accentuated by a flat arch, which is located over all window and door openings on the first floor. To access the first floor of the hall, cast-concrete buttresses flank a large group of wide concrete steps, with cast-metal lamps located at each end of the steps. The current configuration of the steps has been narrowed by the addition of red brick steps and flowerbeds. The original cast-concrete steps are located beneath the red brick, as the brick has been set on top of the original concrete. The building corner stone is located near the northwest corner of elevation and reads: FRANKLIN MACVEAGH: SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY; JAMES KNOX TAYLOR: SUPERVISING ARCHITECT; MCMXI

The front façade is symmetrical and consists of a pair of four-over-four, double-hung windows located to the right of the front entrance. To the right of this pair of windows, a small projection from the central bay consists of a single, six-over-six, double-hung window, before the elevation terminates at the southwest corner. A pair of four-over-four, double-hung windows is located to the left of the front entrance. To the left of this pair of windows, there is a small projection from the central bay that consists of a single, six-over-six, double-hung window, before the elevation terminates at the northwest corner.

The second story shows the prominence of the courtrooms found on the second floor, by using the *piano nobile*, which is the principal floor of a large building. Located between the first and second story is a limestone water table used to divert rainwater away from the building. Similar to the first floor, the second floor is also broken-up into three bays, with the central bay being the more dominant and the two outside bays being slightly set forward from the central bay. Brick quoining extends from the top of the limestone water table to the top of the third floor and accents the corners of the two outside bays. The two outside bays each have a single, six-over-six, double-hung window, with a rectangular window hood over the top. The rectangular hood molding then continues down the sides of the windows and extends through the top layer of the

Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse

Craighead County,  
Arkansas  
County and State

Name of Property

limestone water table. Located between the molding that extends to the limestone water table and between the water table and the bottom of the windows there is a raised panel. The central bay consists of three, evenly-spaced, paired, four-over-four, double-hung windows. These three sets of paired windows also have the similar window hoods and molding, just like the two windows in the outside bays. The only difference is that the central bay windows have two raised panels, instead of one.

The third story has a similar configuration, using the three bays with outside bays being identical. A small limestone band runs through the third floor roughly three-quarters of the way up the third floor. The location of the band, roughly corresponds with the upper panes of glass in the windows. The two outside bays contain a single, three-over-three, double-hung windows. Located above the window is a brick window lintel. There are three two-over-two, double-hung windows located within the central bay. Similar to other windows on this floor, these windows contain brick window lintels. Located below the large overhanging eaves are the decorative rafter tails supporting the eaves.

## **NORTH ELEVATION**

Many of the architectural characteristics found on the north elevation are carried over from the west elevation. The base of the north elevation is again constructed of limestone. There is an exterior staircase, leading to the basement. Located with the base, near the northeast corner is another open area near the foundation that contains two light wells and is surrounded by a metal railing. Working right to left across the first floor there is a six-over-six, double-hung window, with a flat arch and limestone windowsill. To the left of the windows is a small, decorative, recessed window opening with a flat brick arch, and limestone windowsill that has always been infilled. To the left of the small decorative recessed window, is a large version of a faux window with the same window detailing. To the left of the larger recessed decorative faux window is another smaller version, followed by another six-over-six, double-hung window, with a flat arch and limestone windowsill. At this point the entire elevation protrudes a couple of inches, and is the beginning of the rear addition that was added in 1936. Within the rest of the first floor elevation, there are three, evenly-spaced window openings. The first two window openings have been enclosed and contain HVAC and centrifugal upblast exhaust fans. However, these windows do have flat arches with a limestone, keystone, and a limestone windowsill. The third window is closest to the northeast corner of the elevation, and consists of a pair of four-over-four, double-hung windows in one window opening. This window opening is contains a flat brick arch with limestone keystone, and a limestone windowsill.

As similar to the west elevation, the limestone water table continues around to the north elevation. Working right to left across the second floor there is brick quoining at the northwest corner of the elevation and it is a continuation from the west elevation. To the left of the quoining is a single, six-over-six, double-hung window, with a rectangular window hood over the top. The rectangular hood molding then continues down the sides of the windows and extends through the top layer of the limestone water table. Located between the molding that extends to the limestone water table and between the water table and the bottom of the windows

Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse

Craighead County,  
Arkansas  
County and State

Name of Property

there is a raised panel. This window detail is found on all of the large window openings on this floor of this elevation. To the left of the first window is a small, decorative, recessed, faux window opening with a limestone windowsill. To the left of the smaller faux window is a larger version of the smaller window with similar window details. To the left of the larger faux windows is another smaller version, before coming to another single, six-over-six, double-hung window, with a rectangular window hood over the top. Larger brick quoins cover the corner that protrudes slightly out from the rest of the elevation showing the location of the 1936 addition. Located to the left of the quoining are three, evenly-spaced, six-over-six, double-hung windows, with a rectangular window hood over the top. Located to the left of the three, evenly-spaced windows is another large area of brick quoining located at the northeast corner of the elevation.

The third floor is again similar to the third floor of the west elevation, which contains a small limestone band that runs through the third floor roughly three-quarters of the way up the third floor. The location of the band roughly corresponds with the upper panes of glass in the windows. The first window corresponds directly above the first window on the second floor and consists of a single, three-over-three, double-hung window with limestone windowsill. To the left of the small window is a small-unornamented section of wall before arriving at the second window, which is in line with the first, large, faux recessed window on the second floor. The window is also a small, decorative, recessed, faux window opening with a limestone windowsill. There is another small-unornamented section of wall before arriving at another single, three-over-three, double-hung windows, with limestone windowsill. The elevation again extends outward due to the 1936 addition, and consists of three, evenly-spaced, single, three-over-three, double-hung window, with limestone windowsills that align with the three windows located on the second floor in this space. Located below the large overhanging eaves are the decorative rafter tails supporting the eaves. Located above the large eaves, there are two large dormers that are evenly-spaced above the roof, that each contain four, four-pane, stationary windows. Located below the windows are recessed panels, while above the windows is a large triangular pediment with a small centrally-located vent.

## **EAST ELEVATION**

The rear elevation has seen the most changes due to the 1936 addition that was added on to the rear of the building. This added roughly an extra 5,000 square feet to each floor. The basement and first floor are separated into three bays. The basement of the first bay from the right, contains a light well with two egress points, in the form of windows. The third bay also contains a light well that contains a basement door egress and staircase leading to ground level. The first floor of the first bay contains a pair of four-over-four, double-hung, windows in one window opening. This window opening contains a flat brick arch with limestone keystone and a limestone windowsill. The second bay extends outward from the other two bays and contains what was originally a rear entrance and then a mail-receiving vestibule after the 1936 remodel. The wall that extends outward from the first bay contains a smaller, single, evenly-spaced, four-over-four, double-hung, window. It too has a flat-arch and limestone windowsill, but the keystone is assembled with red brick. Moving around to the main portion of the first floor of the east elevation there is a covered loading dock that has a brick foundation and concrete cap. Off the

Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse

Craighead County,  
Arkansas  
County and State

Name of Property

north side of the loading dock is a small set of steps with a metal hand rail. A handrail then continues the length of the loading dock including a wheelchair ramp that has been added to the east side of the loading dock. The entire loading dock is covered by a projecting flat roof, which is supported by metal poles. The area under the covered loading dock consists of an alternating window and door combination. The window and door combination consists of a pair of four-over-four, double-hung, windows in one window opening. Below the paired windows is a bulkhead. To the left of the paired windows is a pair of batten doors. This arrangement is then copied again to the left of the batten doors before terminating at the southeast corner of the vestibule. Along the south side of the vestibule, there is another smaller, single, evenly-spaced, four-over-four, double-hung window. It too has a flat-arch and limestone windowsill, but the keystone is assembled with red brick. The third bay is again set back, and is identical to the first bay on this floor.

As similar to the west and north elevations, the limestone water table continues around to the east elevation. Working right to left across the second floor there is brick quoining at the northeast corner of the elevation and it is a continuation from the north elevation. The second and third floors of the elevation are also broken up into three bays with the second bay being set back only an inch or two. To the left of the quoining is a single, six-over-six, double-hung window with a rectangular window hood over the top. The rectangular hood molding then continues down the sides of the windows and extends through the top layer of the limestone water table. Located between the molding that extends to the limestone water table and between the water table and the bottom of the windows there is a raised panel. There is another single, three-over-three, double-hung window with limestone windowsill. The first bay is terminated by another set of brick quoining. As previously mentioned, the second bay is recessed slightly and contains three, evenly-spaced, paired, four-over-four, double-hung windows with an eight-pane elliptical window located above them, as they are all set in a single window opening. The third floor is again similar to the third floor of the west and north elevations, which contains a small limestone band that runs through the third floor roughly three-quarters of the way up the third floor. The location of the band roughly corresponds with the upper panes of glass in the three-over-three windows, but sits just above the top of the three large elliptical windows in the second bay. The third bay is again set forward similar to the first bay and contains similar window and ornamentation placement, though the windows are recessed faux windows to maintain symmetry. Located below the large overhanging eaves are the decorative rafter tails that support the eaves. Located above the large eaves, there is a small dormer that contains four, four-pane, stationary windows.

## **SOUTH ELEVATION**

The base of the north elevation is again constructed of limestone and has horizontal basement windows. The first floor is not broken up into bays like the other elevations. Working right to left across the first floor there are three sets of paired, four-over-four, double-hung windows in one window opening. This window opening contains a flat brick arch with limestone, keystone and a limestone windowsill. To the left of the three sets of paired windows, is another single, six-over-six, double-hung window, followed by a smaller, one-over-one, double-hung



Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse

Craighead County,  
Arkansas  
County and State

Name of Property

window with a flat-arch. To the left of the smaller window is another single, six-over-six, double-hung window, followed by a smaller, one-over-one, double-hung window with a flat-arch. To the left of the second smaller window is a third, six-over-six, double-hung window before the first floor terminates at the southwest corner of the elevation.

As similar to the other three elevations, the limestone water table continues around to the south elevation. The second and third floors are broken up into two definable bays, with the first bay consisting of brick quoining on the southeast corner followed by three evenly-spaced, large window openings with paired, four-over-four, double-hung windows with an eight-pane elliptical window located above them in the first and third window openings. The second window opening consists of a recessed faux window. The arched hood molding then continues down the sides of the windows and extends through the top layer of the limestone water table. Located between the molding that extends to the limestone water table and between the water table and the bottom of the windows there is a raised panel. This first bay is then terminated by another set of brick quoining. The third floor is again similar to the third floor of the west and north elevations, which contains a small limestone band that runs through the third floor roughly three-quarters of the way up the third floor. The location of the band roughly corresponds with the upper panes of glass in the three-over-three windows on the third floor in the second bay, but sits just above the top of the three large elliptical windows in the first bay. The second floor in the second bay consists of a second floor entranceway with a rectangular window hood over the top. The rectangular hood molding then continues down the sides of the windows and extends through the top layer of the limestone water table. A metal fire escape allows access the second floor entrance. To the left of the entrance is a small, one-over-one, double-hung window, followed by a single, six-over-six, double-hung window with a rectangular window hood over the top. To the left of the larger, six-over-six, double-hung window is a small, one-over-one, double-hung window, followed by a single, six-over-six, double-hung window with a rectangular window hood over the top. The rectangular hood molding then continues down the sides of the windows and extends through the top layer of the limestone water table.

The third floor of the second bay consists of alternating six-over-six, double-hung windows, with smaller one-over-one, double-hung windows. Each of the three larger six-over-six windows has a flat arch and limestone sill, while the two smaller windows only have a limestone sill. Located below the large overhanging eaves are the decorative rafter tails supporting the eaves. Located above the large eaves, there is a small dormer that contains three, four-pane, stationary windows. A large square chimney or ventilation stack is also shown coming through the roofline on this elevation.

## INTERIOR

The first floor is very much unaltered from its time as a post office and federal courthouse. Though it is not believed that the building was built as the original 1911 blueprints suggested, it is reasonable to believe from looking at the interior of the building and the plans that the general design and layout has been sustained over the years. The medium gray terrazzo and the inlaid Lyonnaise marble are still as originally designed in the blueprints. It seems as though the post

Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse

Craighead County,  
Arkansas  
County and State

Name of Property

office boxes were centrally located upon entering the front doors while the counter space and mail drop off boxes were located on either side of the post office boxes. The marble kick plates are also original and can be found below the mail drop off boxes and the mail counter. The woodwork and transom windows located above the mail drop-off boxes and the mail counter look to be original. A beautiful staircase traverses the first, second and third floors along the north side of the building. The original post office working room retains its wide-open floor plan, which would have been used to sort mail before disbursement. The staircase allows access to the second floor, which has smaller offices running along the northern side of the second floor, while the original federal court room remains a large open space with checkerboard pattern flooring. Wainscoting can be found on the lower part of walls within the courtroom while decorative recessed arched panels finish out the interior of the space.

## **INTEGRITY**

The Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse in Jonesboro, Arkansas, has undergone a few changes over its lifetime. Some changes that have occurred include the replacement the post office boxes to create an entrance for enter the larger open space that once was the post office working room. The exterior changes to the property include the addition of flowerbeds on the original steps; the original steps are still located beneath the dirt and brick retaining walls. The 1936 renovation and addition to the rear of the building added nearly 15,000 square feet to the building as the City of Jonesboro and the court federal court system in Eastern Arkansas continued to grow. In 1936, there was a three-story addition added to the rear of the building and it included a new courtroom space, larger mail loading dock and removed a smaller mail vestibule for the creation of a larger mail vestibule. This addition added nearly thirty percent more floor space to the building. Other features still exist like the courtroom rail, which is still located in the building.

Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse

Craighead County,  
Arkansas  
County and State

Name of Property

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse

Name of Property

Craighead County,  
Arkansas  
County and State

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1913- 1969

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1913

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

James Knox Taylor (Supervising Architect)

M. Yeager & Son, Builder

\_\_\_\_\_

Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse

Craighead County,  
Arkansas  
County and State

Name of Property

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its association with the U.S. Postal Service and Federal Court proceedings in the Eastern District of Arkansas, and **Criterion C** for its Renaissance Revival style of architecture. The Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse is a good example of the work designed by the Supervising Architect's Office, under the administration of James Knox Taylor. The combined post office and courthouse was erected at a time when Federal Post Office and Courtroom space was in high demand. In 1908, Missouri Representative Coudrey introduced Federal Legislation that called for the Federal Government to "erect a post office in every county seat in the United States."<sup>1</sup> At the same time under Taylor's administration of the Supervising Architect's Offices, the number of federal buildings, including post offices and courthouses, authorized during this time, "exceeded the total number of buildings erected since the United States became a nation."<sup>2</sup> Its style was indicative of the time period, as well as the style of architecture being designed through the Supervising Architect's Office, with square or rectangular massing, large brackets, and horizontal belt course with corner quoins. These details are usually found on the masonry buildings, which feature stone ashlar or stucco, as seen on the Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The first Arkansas constitutional convention took place on January 13, 1836, whereas the constitutional convention "asked the Congress of the United States to admit the said Territory into the Union as a State, on equal footing with the original States."<sup>3</sup> The first federal judicial court was set up upon Arkansas entering the United States on June 15, 1836, as the twenty-fifth state.<sup>4</sup> It is noted in the Statutes at Large for the Twenty-Fourth Congress, that the State of Arkansas would have one judicial district, and it would be known as the Arkansas District. The original Arkansas District would hold two judicial sessions annually, with the sessions being held on the first Monday of April and November. The Judge for the district, Benjamin Johnson, was appointed in 1836, at an annual salary of \$2,000.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> It is unknown at this time whether the bill that was introduced by Representative Coudrey ever made it to the full House of Representatives for a vote. "For Every County Seat." *Arkansas Democrat*, 22 March 1908, 8.

<sup>2</sup> National Archives, "U.S. Post Offices: Muskegon, Michigan," National Archives, [https://www.archives.gov/exhibits/designs\\_for\\_democracy/designs\\_for\\_a\\_new\\_century/articles/elevations\\_post\\_office\\_muskegon\\_michigan.html](https://www.archives.gov/exhibits/designs_for_democracy/designs_for_a_new_century/articles/elevations_post_office_muskegon_michigan.html) (accessed January 2, 2019).

<sup>3</sup> Administrative Procedures Act, Statutes at Large 5, Session I. CH. 100, 50 (1836).

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, 51. (Under the creation of the District of Arkansas, the judge was given the same jurisdiction and powers which were given to the judge of the Kentucky District under an act entitled "An act to establish the judicial courts of the United States.")

Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse

Craighead County,  
Arkansas  
County and State

Name of Property

Only eight years after the initial creation of the District of Arkansas, the district expanded to take in Indian Territory, which included Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming. However, having people travel from the vast regions of Indian Territory to Little Rock, put a strain on the those having to go to court. Therefore, Arkansas was split into two districts: the Eastern District held in Little Rock, and the Western District originally held in Van Buren, Arkansas, before being relocated to Fort Smith, Arkansas.<sup>6</sup> The creation of two districts in Arkansas occurred on March 3, 1851.<sup>7</sup> The jurisdiction for each of the two districts was manipulated over the years and can best be seen in the book *United States District Courts and Judges of Arkansas, 1836-1960*. By 1871, the Western District actually covered part of Western, Northern and Eastern Arkansas. Due to the shape of the Western District, it became nearly impossible and impractical for those in Phillips County to arrive for court in Fort Smith. Therefore, the judge in the western district also sat twice a year for court in Helena, Arkansas. This would again change by 1877, when the alignment of the districts was altered, allowing for the portions of eastern and northern Arkansas to fall back under the Eastern District, meaning that the Eastern District judge would not sit for court twice a year in Helena, Arkansas.

The movement of districts or the dividing of districts was just beginning by 1887. At that time, the Eastern District added a Texarkana Division. This would be followed by a further dividing of the two districts in 1897 to include: Fort Smith and Texarkana divisions in the Western District and Northern (Batesville), Eastern (Helena), and Western (Little Rock) divisions in the Eastern District. Only five years later the Western District added a Harrison Division further dividing the state.<sup>8</sup>

Though Jonesboro still had not been selected for a division seat for Eastern Arkansas, the population for northeastern section of the state was rapidly growing by 1910. From 1897 to 1910 Helena was the only location to hold court in the Eastern Division. In 1910, Congress required the Eastern Division to also hold court or sit in Jonesboro.<sup>9</sup> Congress must have already had a forethought about having the Eastern Division sit in Jonesboro as early as 1909, because it is noted in a newspaper article that the site for the Jonesboro “government building” had already been secured on June 19, 1909.<sup>10</sup>

It also seems as though there was a push being made by Congressman Macon, who was pushing for a “New Government Building” for Jonesboro. This new government building would consist of both a post office and district courtroom for what would become the Jonesboro Division of the Eastern District of Arkansas. It was noted in the *Craighead County Sun* that plans for the new government building would be produced soon, as the Government Supervisor of Architect’s, has sent Postmaster J.A. Houghton a blank survey to be “filled out, with regard to kind of building

---

<sup>6</sup> Frances Mitchell Ross, et al, *United States District Courts and Judges of Arkansas, 1836-1960* (Fayetteville, Arkansas: University of Arkansas Press, 2016), 4-5.

<sup>7</sup> Administrative Procedures Act, Statutes at Large 9, Session II. CH. 24, 594 (1851).

<sup>8</sup> Frances Mitchell Ross, et al, 9-13.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid*, 14.

<sup>10</sup> “Newport Wants Action Taken On New Postoffice,” *Craighead County Sun*, 28 June 1911, 1.

Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse

Craighead County,  
Arkansas  
County and State

Name of Property

needed here for the post office.”<sup>11</sup> Some of the questions within the survey asked about the type of furniture used and the shape of the current post office to better help in constructing a plan for the new building. These type of questions would better help the Government Supervising Architect’s office prepare plans with the necessities of the location in mind. It was thought that with the survey question answered and data given, that the plans would be drawn at an early date,<sup>12</sup> though that would not necessarily be the case due to the number of “federal buildings” being constructed at that period of time.

Only a month later, news broke that the United States Congress passed a bill creating a full-time federal courthouse and court system in Jonesboro by early March 1912.<sup>13</sup> However, the Eastern Division of Eastern Arkansas had been sitting for court since 1910 on the second floor of the Royal Pharmacy Building, located at the corner of Main and Washington.<sup>14</sup> It is in this bill passed by congress on March 3, 1911, that the creation of the Jonesboro Division in the Eastern District of Arkansas occurred. As part of the new Jonesboro Division, the following counties fell within the division’s jurisdiction: Crittenden, Clay, Craighead, Mississippi, Poinsett, Fulton, Randolph and Lawrence, while court would be held on the second Monday in May and November. The creation of special legislation to help create the Jonesboro Division, was a campaign promise of Congressman Macon. It was stated that by having a United States Courthouse in the City of Jonesboro, it would “bring many people to this city from surrounding counties twice a year.”<sup>15</sup> The *Jonesboro Evening Sun* then adds that that having a United States Courthouse in the city “also places the city among the leading cities of the state, as none but the larger cities have United States courts.”<sup>16</sup>

Due to the passage of the Bill creating the Jonesboro Division, it was immediately thought that construction on the “New Government Building” would begin at once, so that the building could be ready for the opening of court in a year for the next court term.<sup>17</sup> Though the newspapers of Jonesboro were highly optimistic in there estimated completion time, the rate at which government and government contracts were finished were slower than the newspaper editors had anticipated.

---

<sup>11</sup> “Plans For the New Government Building Soon,” *Craighead County Sun*, 1 February 1911, 1.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>13</sup> “Bill Passed Creating United States Court For Jonesboro in 1912,” *Jonesboro Evening Sun*, 13 March 1911, 1.

<sup>14</sup> There is two schools of thought on the location of the courtroom prior to the completion of the building in 1913. Early in 1911, it was proposed that should the building not be ready by May 1912, that the District Court would be held in the County Courthouse. However, by April 23, 1913, it was stated that United States court would be held in the “old” court room over, the Royal Pharmacy, giving he indication that court had been held in that location previously. (*Ibid.*; “New Government Building May Not Be Ready For Court,” *Jonesboro Evening Sun*, 23 April 1913, 1.)

<sup>15</sup> “Bill Passed Creating United States Court For Jonesboro in 1912,” *Jonesboro Evening Sun*, 13 March 1911, 1.

<sup>16</sup> It should also be noted that Judge Treiber, who was the seated Judge in the Eastern District of Arkansas, “hardly fought” the legislation, knowing that it would add additional work for the Eastern District of Arkansas, due to travel. (*Ibid.*)

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid*

Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse

Craighead County,  
Arkansas  
County and State

Name of Property

In April 1911, the tentative building plans finally arrived in the hands of Postmaster J.A. Houghton. The plans were first sent to Postmaster Houghton so that he would be able to sign off on the plans for the postal department. He would then have to send them to Judge Trieber, who was the current judge for the district to be approved before being sent back to Washington, DC.<sup>18</sup> It is noted in an article from April 12, 1911, that the “New Government Building” would cost roughly \$100,000 to build and would be three stories tall, with a basement. The front of the building would be built so that the front doors are roughly centered with Jackson Street. According to the plan, the basement would be “cut up” into storage rooms and restrooms.<sup>19</sup> The first floor would contain the post office, including the mail sorting rooms, front desk and mailboxes, and offices for the postmaster, assistant postmaster and the post office inspector. The second floor would house the United States Court Room and offices for the court personnel including judge, clerk, commissioners, and referee in bankruptcy.<sup>20</sup> The third floor would contain rooms for the grand and petit juries, office for the United States Marshal, and various other office space.<sup>21</sup>

The eagerness of the newspaper staff is still apparent as it is citing that the lot had been cleared and was ready for construction to begin, noting that it could start as soon as the government made the order to start construction. There was still wishful thinking when the article states again that if construction began immediately the building could be ready for the first term of court in Jonesboro. This eagerness to begin construction and hold court was quickly tamped down in late June, when the Town of Newport, began wanting action on their new post office. At the same time, Congressman Macon was pushing the Supervising Architect’s Office to hurry plans and specifications for the post office and courthouse in Jonesboro, so that it would open alongside the first term of court. He was respectfully told that “The drawings for the various government buildings over the country are made in the order in which the sites [were] secured.”<sup>22</sup> The treasury department stated that all government building projects must wait their turn as it was governed by when the site was purchased and that at that point in time, June 28, 1911, there were thirty-one buildings ahead of the Jonesboro project.<sup>23</sup>

Even with the plans being delayed by the Supervising Architect’s office, the design of the plan fit into the overall style of architecture that was being produced by the Supervising Architect, James Knox Taylor’s, office. However, the Renaissance Revival Style, or Italianate Style, was

---

<sup>18</sup> “Plans For Government Building Have Been Received In The City,” *Craighead County Sun*, 1 February 1911, 1.

<sup>19</sup> It is interesting to note that when the article describes the basement, it states that in the basement there would be “storage [*sic*] rooms and restroom, toilets and such as it usually used in basements.” (*Ibid.*)

<sup>20</sup> A referee in Bankruptcy, or Bankruptcy Referee, is a federal official that has quasi-judicial powers who is able to administer bankruptcy proceedings. This federal official position was eliminated in 1979 due to the creation of Bankruptcy Courts in 1978. (Federal Judicial Center, “Court Officers and Staff: Bankruptcy Referees,” Federal Judicial Center, <https://www.fjc.gov/history/administration/court-officers-and-staff-bankruptcy-referees> (accessed January 22, 2019).

<sup>21</sup> “Plans For Government Building Have Been Received In The City,” *Craighead County Sun*, 12 April 1911, 1.

<sup>22</sup> “Newport Wants Action Taken On New Post Office,” *Craighead County Sun*, 28 June 1911, 1.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*



Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse

Craighead County,  
Arkansas  
County and State

Name of Property

already out of favor in the view of the public. Some architectural historians would argue that there were three phases of Renaissance Revival architecture. The first phase, or prelude period, was typified by the Italianate style of architecture, which was common between 1840-1887, but was mostly focused on residential architecture of wealthy homeowners. The second phase, sometimes called the high period, which roughly ran between 1887-1917, was highlighted by building produced for the World's Columbian Expedition in Chicago, thanks to architects like McKim, Mead and White. This second phase was really highlighted by commissions for public buildings, yet never really had a single idiom or characteristic that defined the period, which is noted by Richard Guy Wilson in his *Winterthur Portfolio* article "Architecture and the Reinterpretation of the Past in the American Renaissance." The third phase, known as the late period, ran between 1917-1938, and further saw America moving away from Renaissance ideas until they were completely absent from society.<sup>24</sup> However, some of the main architectural features found through all three periods of the style include large dormers, large overhanging eaves, decorative rafter tails, quoining, and a combination of brick and stucco with belt course that separate the two materials. Window pane arrangement also typify the style of architecture with large six-over-six, four-over-four, and three-over three, double-hung windows. These characteristics, when taken as a whole, exemplify the taste and ideals articulated in the Italian Renaissance Style of architecture. All of these characteristic are still found throughout the Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse.

Given the period in which the Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse was built, it would fall squarely in the high period for the Renaissance Revival Style of architecture. Part of this influx of Renaissance Revival buildings being built in the public sphere could largely be seen in the public buildings being designed by the architects and draftsmen in the Secretary of the Treasury's Supervising Architect's office run by James Knox Taylor. Prior to James Knox Taylor taking over as the Supervising Architect, there was a revival in looking to the past for inspirations in architecture. This idea was greatly influenced by the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, where architects took liberties with historical interpretations of European architectural styles, leading to a series of different revivalist styles of architecture. The role that the Columbian Exposition played on the civic buildings that would follow cannot be understated.

James Knox Taylor's predecessors all came out of the era of the Columbian Exposition and designed civic buildings in both the classical and renaissance styles, beginning with William Martin Aiken, who served as Supervising Architect from 1895-1897. Aiken's interest in classical and renaissance styles carried over into the literature that could be found in the office that would have influenced many draftsmen including James Knox Taylor.<sup>25</sup> When Aiken resigned his position as Supervising Architect, Taylor took the examination and became one of three finalists. Of the three, Taylor was selected to become the next Supervising Architect in 1897. Throughout his time as Supervising Architect, it is noted that "nearly all the federal buildings designed under

---

<sup>24</sup> Richard Guy Wilson, "Architecture and the Reinterpretation of the Past in the American Renaissance," *Winterthur Portfolio* 18.1 (Spring 1983): 71-72.

<sup>25</sup> Antoinette Josephine Lee, *Architects to the Nation: The Rise and Decline of the Supervising Architect's Office* (New York, NY: Oxford Univ. Press, 2000), 191-195.

Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse

Craighead County,  
Arkansas  
County and State

Name of Property

Taylor can be classified as classical or colonial revival.”<sup>26</sup> The use of classical or colonial revival styles, takes in the use of the Renaissance Revival style. Due to the number of public buildings including post offices, courthouses, and many other federal buildings being designed under Taylor during this period, thus cementing these revival styles, including Renaissance Revival “in the architectural vocabulary throughout the country”<sup>27</sup> including Jonesboro, Arkansas. However, local lore states that this building design was used in two other locations throughout the United States, those other two building have not been located. However, during this period, it would not be unheard of to reuse designs for smaller federal buildings. This idea seems to have come to fruition in 1911 when Treasury Secretary Franklin MacVeagh instructed Taylor to use a single design for another federal building because the two locations were similar in area and population. Following this initial “standardization” MacVeagh began encouraging standardization in other locations.<sup>28</sup>

By the time plans were being developed for the Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse, the Supervising Architect’s office was already being pushed into standardization, though it is unknown whether there are identical or very similar buildings throughout the United States that survive. What is known though was that Jonesboro was still waiting for contracts to be let by September 1911. By September 6, 1911, it was reported that the construction contracts would finally be given out to perspective contractors by September 10, 1911, though the newspaper article was still hoping the building would be completed for the first term of court in the spring of 1912 and the construction would start immediately upon receiving the contract.<sup>29</sup> Consequently, the contracts did not arrive until early October. At that time, several copies of the plans and specifications would be in the hands of Postmaster J.A. Houghton for contractors to look over, in order to make a bid for work on the building. However, the bid for the large lump sum contract, which included construction, plumbing and lighting, would not be even received until noon on November 7, 1911.<sup>30</sup> It seems as though the contract deadline of November 7<sup>th</sup> was met as on November 10<sup>th</sup> the local newspapers were already awaiting word about who had received the construction contract.<sup>31</sup>

It is not until November 27, 1911, that official word came from Washington, D.C., that the contract had been let to M. Yeager and Son of Danville, Illinois, with the contract calling for the completion of the building by March 1, 1913.<sup>32</sup> It also notes that M. Yeager and Son will have a superintendent on the site shortly to start preparation for work, while also noting that the contractor was going to submit samples of materials to the Supervising Architect.

---

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid*, 209.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid*, 210.

<sup>29</sup> “Contract For The New Government Building By 10<sup>th</sup> of September,” *Craighead County Sun*, 6 September 1911, 1.

<sup>30</sup> “Bids For Building The Government Building Received To Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>,” *Craighead County Sun*, 4 October 1911, 1.

<sup>31</sup> “No News about New Postoffice,” *Jonesboro Daily Tribune*, 10 November 1911.

<sup>32</sup> “Official Notice of Contract For New P.O. Building,” *Jonesboro Evening Sun*, 27 November 1911, 1.; “Expert Coming to Supervise U.S. Building,” *Jonesboro Daily Tribune*, 27 November 1911, 1.

Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse

Craighead County,  
Arkansas  
County and State

Name of Property

Between November 1911 and April 1912, very little happened with regard to the construction of the building on the site on which it was to be located. On April 17, 1912, it is noted that O.K. Yeager, of M. Yeager and Son, arrived in Jonesboro to “look after starting the work of construction as soon as the work of excavating [had] been completed.”<sup>33</sup> Apparently only a week after the contractor arrived work started in earnest because by April 23, 1912, the concrete foundation work had already begun the previous day. It is also at this time, that L.W. Gass, the foreman for Yeager and Son, stated that the laying of the brick would begin the next day and that if the weather would cooperate he would “keep men working on the building all the time.”<sup>34</sup>

The brick and stonework seems to have been slow moving as the cornerstone was eventually laid around May 11, 1912. According to the *Jonesboro Daily Tribune*, the new estimated cost of the building was set at roughly \$85,000, and that construction was being rushed to completion, but no further delay was being anticipated during the construction of the building. The article then goes on to state that both the government officials and the general public were “eagerly awaiting” its completion.<sup>35</sup> It seems that the uneasiness surrounding both the local public and the government officials stemmed from the hope, at least by people in Jonesboro, that the building would be nearly completed by this point and would be able to be used for the first term of court.

The first term of court, came and went, without the completion of the new federal building. As previously mentioned, the first term was originally suggested to take place in the Craighead County Courthouse, but it seems as though court was actually moved to the second floor of the Royal Pharmacy, where court was being held prior to the creation of the division. The first term opened on May 12, 1912, at 10:00 am with the organization of members for a grand jury in the case that one would be needed. The first case heard under the auspice of the newly formed Jonesboro Division was a case against Jim Harris, who was charged with selling whiskey without a license. The second case of the day was the result of a bankruptcy case being pursued by Sam Simon. The case was an appeal from Referee E.F. Brown, to which Judge Trieber held to the opinion of Referee Brown.<sup>36</sup> The first term would continue through Friday, May 17, before the session officially ended.

With the first term over, attention again turned to the construction of the building, but it would be nearly three months before another update was written about it in any of the newspapers. Once an update was finally reported, it was stated that the brickwork would be completed by roughly August 9, 1912, if the weather cooperated. There was a delay in the brickwork, because Mr. Gass, the building superintendent, “had trouble with the brick men in doing the work which is the reason the work has not progressed faster.”<sup>37</sup> In the same article, Mr. Gass states that once the brickwork was completed, they would hurry to put on the roof, before working on the

<sup>33</sup>“Contractor For New Government Building Here,” *Craighead County Sun*, 17 April 1912, 1.

<sup>34</sup> Concrete Work On Federal Building Has Been Started,” *Jonesboro Daily Tribune*, 23 April 1912.

<sup>35</sup> “New \$84,000 Federal Building Looms Up,” *Jonesboro Daily Tribune*, 11 May 1912.

<sup>36</sup> “United States Court First Term Opened Up At 10 A.M. Tuesday,” *Craighead County Sun*, 15 May 1912, 1.

<sup>37</sup> “Federal Building Work Advancing,” *Jonesboro Daily Tribune*, 7 August 1912.

Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse

Craighead County,  
Arkansas  
County and State

Name of Property

interior.<sup>38</sup> Only three weeks later, the framing for the roof was being constructed, with the hope still that the interior finishing work would be able to be started once the building's exterior was sealed off. Yet, before the interior finishing work could be started and while the roof was being constructed, the plumbers were busily working on the vast amount of plumbing for the contract.<sup>39</sup> The tin roof was finally being applied by September 20 with the hope that it would only take a few days for the entire roof to be clad. By this date, it is noted that all construction trades were being applied to the building including: carpenters, electricians, plumbers, and stonemasons, in order to finish the building by "early spring."<sup>40</sup> The *Jonesboro Evening Sun*, reports that the "new building presents a good appearance from Main Street, being at the end of Jackson Avenue on Church Street. When completed it will be the best government building in Eastern Arkansas, being built to take care of the term of U.S. Court."<sup>41</sup>

Though the post office was bringing a great appearance to the downtown area, it was also causing strife in the local community over who would become the new postmaster following the election of President Woodrow Wilson in 1912.<sup>42</sup> Even before the election, there were rumblings of who would seek the Presidential appointment if Woodrow Wilson won the 1912 election. The rumblings started as early as November 2, but continued through March 12, 1913. By the end of the first week of November, following the election of Woodrow Wilson the list of potential applicants continued to increase when the local newspapers began calling for an election for the postmaster position.<sup>43</sup> The *Jonesboro Evening Sun*, on November 8, 1912, stated "the fact that the next postmaster will occupy offices in the new government building makes it more inviting."<sup>44</sup> Inevitably, an election was done for the postmaster position with nearly three quarters of the Democrats in the City of Jonesboro coming out to vote. O.C. Burk was chosen as Postmaster by the people of Jonesboro and did so by carrying every voting location.<sup>45</sup>

With the politics of who was going to be the next postmaster being contested throughout the end of 1912 and into 1913, the construction of the government building continued on. While the arguments were just beginning to rage in Jonesboro over the postmaster position, information made the local newspapers stating that the building would be ready by March 1, 1913, and that the current Postmaster J.A. Houghton was sending a completed list of furniture and fixtures to

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>39</sup> "Work on Postoffice Progressing Nicely," *Jonesboro Daily Tribune*, 28 August 1912, 1.

<sup>40</sup> "Roof Being Put On Government Building Today," *Jonesboro Evening Sun*, 20 September 1912, 1.

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>42</sup> The act of political appointments officially ended with the Post Reorganization Act of 1970, but technically ended in 1967 when the Post Office Department was taken out of a cabinet-level office and reassigned as an independent agency. The appointment of postmasters would have ended under President Lyndon Johnson.

<sup>43</sup> "Jeffery A. Houghton May Again Be Postmaster If Open Primary Is Held," *Jonesboro Evening Sun*, 15 November 1912, 1.

<sup>44</sup> "Applicants For The Post Office Increase In Number Every Day," *Jonesboro Evening Sun*, 8 November 1912, 1.

<sup>45</sup> "O.C. Burk Is Chosen Postmaster In Election Held Saturday- He Carried Every Voting Place." *Craighead County Sun*, 12 March 1913, 1. (It is unclear, due to lack of research on the subject, whether O.C. Burk was appointed to the Postmaster position or not. In March 1913, Representative Thaddeus Caraway stated that Burk's appointment would probably not be made until the end of Postmaster J.A. Houghton's term ended in February 1914.

Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse

Craighead County,  
Arkansas  
County and State

Name of Property

the U.S. Treasury Department. It is also stated that the furniture would be of the latest in design and “cost quite a sum of money.”<sup>46</sup> The hope was that the furniture and fixtures would be ordered early and be ready to furnish the new building which was to open March 1, seeing as how only interior work and concrete sidewalks needed to be completed. Nevertheless, the furniture, which was ordered, would delay the project further. By February 1913, locals were still optimistic that the building would be ready to open on April 15, meaning the contractors missed the original deadline of March 1, but locals still held out hope that the building could be opened for the May term of court as one of the prettiest government buildings in the state.<sup>47</sup>

Though some of the furniture was being placed into its location as early as late March, the rest of the furniture was still not available by April 16. The post office, which expected to move its entire operation in a single night, was delayed because the lock boxes being shipped from New Haven, Connecticut, was being held up due to high water on the east coast.<sup>48</sup> The courtroom furniture was also delayed causing the first term of court for 1913 to be located back in its original location on the second floor of the Royal Pharmacy building. The furniture that had yet to be shipped included “the stand for the judge, the rail, the chairs for the courtroom and the carpet.”<sup>49</sup> Given that the building would not be completely furnished by the time that the term arrived, Judge Trieber would be given the option to use temporary furniture or move court back to the Royal Pharmacy Building.

It is unclear at this point in time, when the post office and court moved into the new building. Given that the furniture was still not shipped as of April 23, 1913, it is highly likely that the term of court was started and finished, but it is not known whether it was in the Royal Pharmacy Building or the courthouse; there are not newspapers that covered Jonesboro for the month of May available. However, it is highly plausible that it was shortly after the term started and or finished that the furniture arrived. Due to the lack of local sources for this time period it is also likely that the post office was able to move into its new location in early May once the lock boxes arrived. It is known that by June the building was open and functioning in all capacities, because an article came out June 21, 1913, giving directions on how to properly enter and exit the revolving door.

With the building completed and business back to normal for the post office and the court system the building remained a central focal point in downtown Jonesboro. The building was again in the news in 1935, when for the first time “in the history of the court, ladies [would] serve on the jury.”<sup>50</sup> Mrs. F.C. Mullinix, Mrs. Crawford Noble, Mrs. J.D. Lyle and Mrs. H.C. Williamson were all named as members of the petit jury.<sup>51</sup>

---

<sup>46</sup> “Government Building To Be Ready By March 1<sup>st</sup>. Furniture Ordered,” *Jonesboro Evening Sun*, 21 November 1912, 1.

<sup>47</sup> “New Government Building Will Be Ready April 15,” *Jonesboro Evening Sun*, 25 February 1913, 1.

<sup>48</sup> “Post Office Not Move Saturday; Boxes Delayed,” *Jonesboro Evening Sun*, 16 April 1913, 1.

<sup>49</sup> “New Government Building May Not Be Ready For Court,” *Jonesboro Evening Sun*, 23 April 1913, 1.

<sup>50</sup> “U.S. Court Open In City Monday,” *Jonesboro Evening Sun*, 3 May 1935, 1.

<sup>51</sup> *Ibid.*

Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse

Craighead County,  
Arkansas  
County and State

Name of Property

The building's days became numbered by 1977, when in April the building was declared surplus federal property. A new federal complex was already under construction in the 600 block of South Church and was nearly ninety percent complete by April 1, 1977. The property was declared surplus by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, meaning that once the building was made available it could be obtained for nearly nothing if the property was used for health or educational services or uses. At the time the building was declared surplus, both the City of Jonesboro and Craighead county officials expressed a desire to obtain the building.<sup>52</sup> The City of Jonesboro expressed interest as far back as 1966 when preliminary drawing for a reuse of the building were completed, but never implemented. Only ten days later, Craighead County Judge Dennis R. Gillam asked members of the Quorum Court to approve a resolution, in which they would pursue a joint application with the City of Jonesboro, to purchase the old post office and court building. The Quorum Court passed the resolution to proceed with the joint application. By May 1977, the new Federal complex was completed and going through final inspection. Since the new complex opened, the old Jonesboro Post Office and Court House went through several owners and reuses, including a restaurant in the old post office and mail sorting area, due to the large open area, and an event space in the former courtroom due to the large open area.

Therefore, The Jonesboro Post Office and Court House, in Jonesboro, Arkansas, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its significance in the area of its association with the U.S. Postal Service and Federal Court proceedings in the Eastern District of Arkansas, and **Criterion C** for its Renaissance Revival style of architecture. The Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse is a good example of the work designed by the Supervising Architect's Office, under the administration of James Knox Taylor. The combined post office and courthouse was erected at a time when Federal Post Office and Courtroom space was in high demand.

---

<sup>52</sup> Larry Fugate, "Declaration- Building Is Surplus," *Jonesboro Sun*, 1 April 1977, 1.

Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse

Craighead County,  
Arkansas  
County and State

Name of Property

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Administrative Procedures Act, Statutes at Large 5, Session I. CH. 100, 50 (1836).

Administrative Procedures Act, Statutes at Large 9, Session II. CH. 24, 594 (1851).

*Arkansas Democrat*

*Craighead County Sun*

Federal Judicial Center, "Court Officers and Staff: Bankruptcy Referees," Federal Judicial Center,  
<https://www.fjc.gov/history/administration/court-officers-and-staff-bankruptcy-referees> (accessed January 22, 2019)

*Jonesboro Daily Tribune*

*Jonesboro Evening Sun*

Lee, Antoinette Josephine. *Architects to the Nation: The Rise and Decline of the Supervising Architect's Office*.  
New York, NY: Oxford Univ. Press, 2000.

Ross, Frances Mitchell, et al. *United States District Courts and Judges of Arkansas, 1836-1960*. Fayetteville,  
Arkansas: University of Arkansas Press, 2016.

National Archives. "U.S. Post Offices: Muskegon, Michigan," National Archives,  
[https://www.archives.gov/exhibits/designs\\_for\\_democracy/designs\\_for\\_a\\_new\\_century/articles/elevations\\_post\\_office\\_muskegon\\_michigan.html](https://www.archives.gov/exhibits/designs_for_democracy/designs_for_a_new_century/articles/elevations_post_office_muskegon_michigan.html) (accessed January 2, 2019).

Wilson, Richard Guy. "Architecture and the Reinterpretation of the Past in the American Renaissance," *Winterthur Portfolio* 18.1 (Spring 1983): 69-87.

---

### 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary location of additional data:

Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse

Craighead County,  
Arkansas  
County and State

Name of Property

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** CG0045

---

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** <1

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_

**Or**

### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983



Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse

Craighead County,  
Arkansas  
County and State

Name of Property

- |             |                 |                   |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 15 | Easting: 707387 | Northing: 3968378 |
| 2. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 3. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 4. Zone:    | Easting :       | Northing:         |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

ST BERNARDS REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER REPLAT OF COBB'S SURVEY SW SE  
LOT 37 & PT 36 J'BORO CITY

Or Parcel # 01-144184-04400

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary contains all of the remaining land and buildings historically associated with the property.

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Travis Ratermann (Survey Historian)  
organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
street & number: 1100 North Street  
city or town: Little Rock state: Arkansas zip code: 72201  
e-mail Travis.Ratermann@arkansas.gov  
telephone: 501-324-9874  
date: 4/4/2019

---

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse

Craighead County,  
Arkansas  
County and State

Name of Property

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse

City or Vicinity: Jonesboro

County: Craighead

State: Arkansas

Photographer: Callie Williams

Date Photographed: 11/02/2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse

Craighead County,  
Arkansas  
County and State

Name of Property

Photo #1 (AR\_Craighead County\_Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse \_0001)  
Original mail drop boxes, still intact in the lobby area. Camera facing northeast.

Photo #2 (AR\_Craighead County\_Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse \_0002)  
Interior photograph of the lobby showing the front desk, mail drop off boxes, and original flooring. Camera facing north.

Photo #3 (AR\_Craighead County\_Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse \_0003) The inside of the post office showing the original front desk. Camera facing southeast.

Photo #4 (AR\_Craighead County\_Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse \_0004)  
Original staircase which leads to the second and third floors. Camera facing north.

Photo #5 (AR\_Craighead County\_Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse \_0005) Photo of the original courtroom. Notice the original flooring and wall details. Camera facing south.

Photo #6 (AR\_Craighead County\_Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse \_0006) Photo of the original courtroom. Notice the original flooring and wall details. Camera facing north.

Photo #7 (AR\_Craighead County\_Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse\_0007)  
Perspective of the west and north elevations. Camera facing southeast.

Photo #8 (AR\_Craighead County\_Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse \_0008)  
Photos of the west elevation. Notice the addition of the brick overtop of the original concrete steps. Original steps are still under the brick. Camera facing east.

Photo #9 (AR\_Craighead County\_Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse \_0009) Photo of the south elevation. A metal fire escape has been attached to the building to meet current firecode. Camera facing northeast.

Photo #10 (AR\_Craighead County\_Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse \_0010)  
Photo of the east elevation. Camera facing east.

Photo #11 (AR\_Craighead County\_Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse \_0011)  
Perspective of the south and west elevation. Camera facing east.

Photo #12 (AR\_Craighead County\_Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse \_0012)  
Interior photo of the original swinging doors leading into the courtroom. Camera facing southwest.

Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse

Craighead County,  
Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

# Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse

National Register of Historic Places Map

Legend



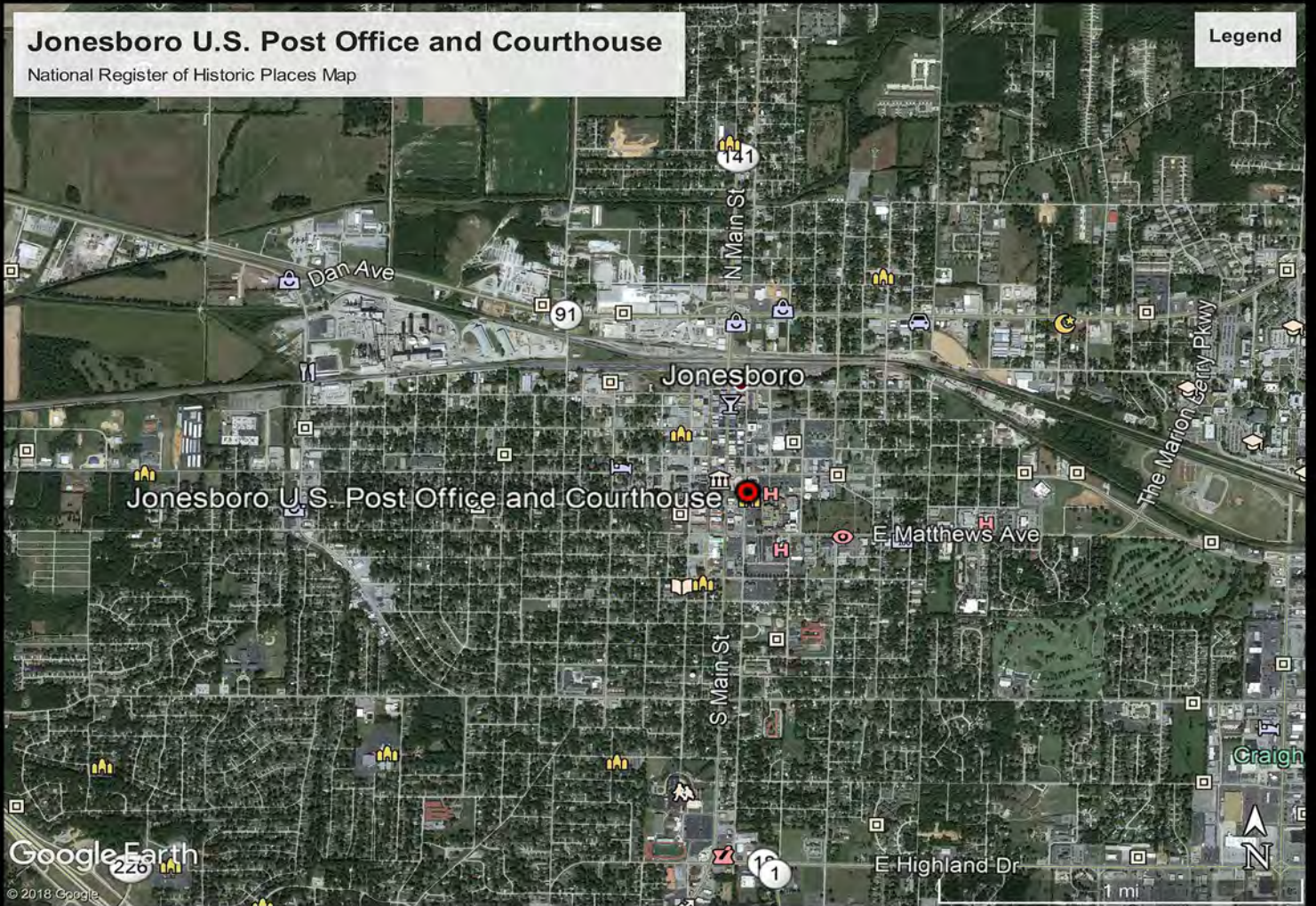
Google Earth

© 2018 Google

# Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse

National Register of Historic Places Map

Legend





OUT  
OF  
TOWN

LOCAL



YOUR  
WATE  
AND  
FATE

OUT  
OF  
TOWN





E  
CE

May all who enter as *guests,*  
leave as *friends*









SUE'S KITCHEN  
Additional  
Parking in Rear  
←

KENT ARNOLD • 930-7758  
ARNOLD GROUP  
REAL ESTATE  
(870) 932-2600

DR. A. GIBNEY  
CHURCH STREET STATION

FOR LEASE

524 S. CHURCH

CHURCH STREET STATION

SUE'S  
KITCHEN

SUE'S  
KITCHEN  
870-972-6000

Kent Arnold • 930-7750  
ARNOLD GROUP  
REAL ESTATE  
FOR LEASE



E. JACKSON AV 200  
CHURCH ST 600

Kent Arnold • 930-7750  
ARNOLD GROUP  
REAL ESTATE  
(870) 932-2600









CHURCH STREET STATION

CHURCH ST  
JACKSON

Kent Arnold • 930-7750  
ARNOLD GROUP  
REAL ESTATE  
(870) 932-2600

**STREET CLOSED**  
Emergency →  
Patient Drop Off →  
Admissions / Discharge →

**CONSTRUCTION  
TRAFFIC  
AHEAD**



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Jonesboro U.S. Post Office and Courthouse

Multiple Name: \_\_\_\_\_

State & County: ARKANSAS, Craighead

Date Received: 4/16/2019      Date of Pending List: 5/2/2019      Date of 16th Day: 5/17/2019      Date of 45th Day: 5/31/2019      Date of Weekly List: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference number: SG100003987

Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review: \_\_\_\_\_

Accept       Return       Reject      5/29/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: Very good example of renaissance revival style, typical for large federal buildings of its period. Associated with increase in Federal presence at the local level and the importance of gaining the "plum" of a federal courthouse in a community.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept / A & C

Reviewer Jim Gabbert      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS  
**HERITAGE**

Asa Hutchinson  
*Governor*

Stacy Hurst  
*Director*

April 3, 2019



Joy Beasley, Keeper and Chief  
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs  
National Register of Historic Places  
1849 C Street, NW  
Mail Stop 228  
Washington D.C. 20240

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Historic  
Preservation Program

Arkansas Natural  
Heritage Commission

Arkansas State Archives

Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars  
Cultural Center

Old State House Museum

RE: Jonesboro United States Post Office and Courthouse—  
Jonesboro, Craighead County, Arkansas

Dear Ms. Beasley:

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the additional documentation for the Jonesboro United States Post Office and Courthouse. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

If you need further information, please call Travis Ratermann of my staff at (501) 324-9874. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Stacy Hurst  
State Historic Preservation Officer

SH:tar

Enclosures



ARKANSAS HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION PROGRAM



1100 North Street  
Little Rock, AR 72201

(501) 324-9880  
fax: (501) 324-9184

[info@arkansaspreservation.org](mailto:info@arkansaspreservation.org)  
[www.arkansaspreservation.com](http://www.arkansaspreservation.com)

An Equal Opportunity Employer