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

CITY, TOWN

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PHO 682942 FOR NPS USE ONLY

STATE

RECEIVED AUG 2 3 1978

TYPE ALL ENTRIES (O COMPLETE NATION COMPLETE APPLICAB	AL REGISTER FORMS LE SECTIONS
NAME	In eschool Section	west to any part of the cleve willing
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Osceola, Arkansas		Production of the second
AND/OR COMMON Osceola Courthouse	r. The floor is d	
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STREET & NUMBER		The second Ploor contains nive
Hale and Poplar		NOT FOR PUBLICATION
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Arkansas	05	Mississippi 093
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XBUILDING(S)PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	AGRICULTUREMUSEUMCOMMERCIALPARK
STRUCTUREBOTH	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONALPRIVATE RESIDENCE
_SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENTRELIGIOUS
_OBJECTIN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	X_GOVERNMENTSCIENTIFIC
BEING CONSIDERED	XYES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIALTRANSPORTATION
	_NO	MILITARYOTHER:
OWNER OF PROPERTY	t disamed access T	contend to the few drings
NAME 12 17 17 18 18	g. At each side i	th completely around and building
Mississippi County, Arkansas,	cc/o A. A. "Shug"	Banks, County Judge
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CONDITION

__EXCELLENT
__GOOD
X_FAIR

__DETERIORATED

__RUINS
__UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

XUNALTERED __ALTERED

CHECK ONE

XORIGINAL SITE
MOVED DATE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated in the center of Osceola is the Mississippi County Courthouse which can be viewed from any part of the city. On the premises are numerous large trees and shrubbery, a monument dedicated to Judge William J. Driver, one dedicated to the Confederate Veterans and a sign which tells of the County seat's origin. The structure is of the Neo-Classical style.

The first floor was once used as the Mississippi County Jail. There are no windows and the walls are constructed of plaster. The floor is laid with a beige colored tile and there

are seven rooms presently used as storage space and offices.

The second floor contains nine offices which have eight foot double hung windows with 1/1 lights — There is a double staircase which is symmetrical about the north and south axis and meets at a central landing on the third floor. The stairs are constructed of marble and the railing is of wrought iron with a wood hand rail. The floor is truly the work of a well-experienced tile decorator. It is constructed of inlaid ceramic tile.

The walls are wain-scot with the lower portion being marble and upper portion being plaster. The walls are twelve feet in height with plastered ceilings.

The third floor offices have eight foot double hung windows with 1/1 lights. There are five eight foot double hung windows with 36/36 lights located on the center south wall. The floor is distinctive with inlaid stone of an oak leaf design. The Courtroom is decorated with terra-cotta cornicing and exposed beams. The beams have Roman olive branch decorations at each end. The floor of the Courtroom is carpeted with a light green level looped carpet.

The Courthouse Square is landscaped with an abudance of large oak trees and shrubbery. In the center front are two wrought iron lamps which are situated on either side of the front steps. The front has a full portico entrance with six thirty foot high, three foot in diameter, fluted Ionic columns. The exterior walls of the Courthouse have face brick extending to the foundation. Located beneath the roof's eave, terra-cotta decorations reach completely around the building. At each side is a one bay entrance with stone steps and wrought iron hand rails. The foundation of the Courthouse is one hundred feet long by fifty four feet wide. It is ten inches thick and constructed of stone.

The most distinguishing feature of the building is the roof. The east and west sides are gable shaped. The flat center section supports a solid copper dome. The dome is surrounded with terra-cotta decorations. Large round polished insets adorn each of the four faces of the dome.

The appearance of the Courthouse dome was altered some twenty years ago. Severe leakage through the dome onto the third floor forced County officials to paint it with asphalt paint. This action has detracted somewhat from the aesthetic qualities of the Courthouse, but the basic architectural beauty of the Courthouse is still evident.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC 1400-1499 1500-1599	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC _ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC _AGRICULTURE	COMMUNITY PLANNINGCONSERVATIONECONOMICS	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE X_LAWLITERATURE	RELIGIONSCIENCESCULPTURE
1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799 1800-1899	ARTCOMMERCE	ENGINEERINGEXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	MUSICPHILOSOPHY	THEATERTRANSPORTATION
<u>X</u> 1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	X_POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES July 4, 1912

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Falls Construction Co/John Gains-

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

ford

The Osceola Courthouse, built in 1912, is significant for its fine architectural work on the interior and exterior portions of the building. The interior floors and exterior walls are of an embellish design. The stone tiles used to construct the floors and the terra-cotta decorations on the exterior are very rare to this area. Before the present Courthouse was built, Court was held in a very small wood frame building. As the County grew in population County officials found it necessary to construct a larger more suitable Courthouse. The old Courthouse was located in old Osceola, which is now the extreme east portion of new Osceola. The Honorable Judge William J. Driver, who was County Judge in 1912, donated a plot of land approximately one acre in size to construct the new Courthouse. The plot of land is located directly in the center of new Osceola.

There are few if any buildings in this area that have such great detailed architectural work. The materials used are also of significant value. The columns and decorations which surround the building are constructed of terra-cotta, an unglazed clay that is rarely seen in this area. This is the only public building in the entire County that is decorated with this brownish-orange material. The floors are truly the work of an artist, carefully placed in a unique pattern are eight inch baked stone tiles. The various colors are red, blue, green and pink on the second floor, green, gray, rust and black on the third floor. In larger cities of this area one would not find floors of such design and beauty.

Located on the east side, across the street, is the Osceola Times building, the oldest building in Osceola. On the south side, across the street, is Fred G. Patterson's general store. Erected in 1902, this building remains without alterations in its original state. These two buildings contribute to the historical value of the Courthouse.

The Osceola Courthouse remains in its original state with the exception of the copper dome, which has been painted with asphalt paint due to leakage.

Blackburn, Adah R. ''I	Rlue Mud Bark o		
A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR			Became Heart of County".
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DA		Wasani of Ash of the	CAR CAR DESCRIPTION
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4	Approx. one (1)	acre	ADDITION TO A STATE OF THE PERSON.
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certain plat of land, two lare", bounded on the north Walnut, the same being the plat book three, page ten, th, Range 10 East.	by Johnson Ave Osceola Townsi	enue, on the south by ite Addition to the	y Hale Avenue, and on the town of Osceola, Arkansas
LIST ALL STATES AND COL	JNTIES FOR PROPER	TIES OVERLAPPING STATE	OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES
STATE STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE in the Code i
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE OTO
NAME/TITLE Archie R. Moore Administrative		orenio de la compania del compania del compania de la compania del c	is area. Whe is to only necessarily on the control of the control
organization Mississippi County Arka	nsas	Legara Joseph (100)	February 15, 1978
STREET & NUMBER			TELEPHONE
Courthouse	inost tender:	. Februar of director	763-6675
CITY OR TOWN Blytheville		di serie, peres di	Arkansas Arkansas
12 STATE HISTORIC PR	ESERVATIO		
		F THIS PROPERTY WITHIN	
NATIONAL			LOCAL
As the designated State Historic Presentereby nominate this property for including criteria and procedures set forth by the	usion in the National National Park Service	Register and certify that it h	
TITLE	-	CHP()	DATE Called galetas
DR NPS USE ONLY		2/7/0	1//2///
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PRO	PERTY IS INCLUDED) IN THE NATIONAL REGIS	
	\$50000 \$5000 \$5000000000000000000000000	######################################	DATE 12 · 13 · 78

9. Major Bibliographical References - continued

Whitworth, Robin. Osceola, Oldest City in County. The Commercial Appeal, 10 June 1925, p. 5 cols. 2-3.

Interview with Richard Milton, Editor, The Osceola Times Newspaper. Osceola, Ark., 23 January 1978.

Interview with Earl Robbins, Owner, Robbins Brothers Farms. Osceola, Arkansas, 23 January 1978.

Interview with John Warriner, Office Manager, Cromwell, Neyland, Truemper, Levy and Gatchell, Inc. Blytheville, Arkansas, 10 January 1978.

Interview with Henry Patterson, Owner and Manager, Patterson's General Merchandise Store. Osceola, Arkansas, 22 December 1977.

Interview with Lillian Patterson, Housewife, 319 North Maple. Osceola, Arkansas, 22 December 1978.



Property Missis	· 1 + 1 + +	
State ask.	Working Number 8. 23.78.393	778000612
TECHNICAL Photos Maps	date OK BD	CONTROL 8.24.78
It is importate value not in the lang	lely in context of architectural dent to note that presentation sees mage of our Criteria, but with a ginga perception that propably re	the structure's eneral reverence
Structure embodies detailing and use of mused for public archies tate of preservation	characteristic ARCHIT naterials inherent in Neo itecture. Building is in a 4 certainly contributes Peeling	ECTURAL HISTORIAN -classical style meanly original accept ag of time + place. Saxe 12/11/78 ARCHEOLOGIST
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		BRANCH CHIEF
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National Register Write-up Federal Register Entry	Send-back Re-submit	

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service WASO No. 7

INT:2106-74



(a) Mississippi County Courthouse
(a) Osceola, Arx.
(3) Archie Moore
(4) Jan. 11, 1918
(5) Frame # 4
(6) North-east view
(7) # 1



(1) Mississippi County Courthouse
(2) Osceola, Art.
(3) Archie R. Moore (H) Jan. 11,1978 AUG 2 3 1978 (5) Frame # 5 (6) Morthwast view (2) #3



(1) Mississippi County Courthouse
(3) Secola, Her.
(3) Hickie R. Moore
(4) Jan. 11, 1918
(5) Frame # 11
(6) Front door, radiators
(7) # 7



(1) Mississippi County Courthouse
(2) Osceola, to Ark.
(3) Archie R. Moore
(4) Jon. 11,1918
(5) Frame # 10
(6) Double staircase on sound floor
(9) # 9



(1) Mississippi County Courthouse
(2) Oscerla, Ark
(3) Archie R. Mosre
(4) Son. 11, 1918
(5) Frame #3
(6) Southwest View
(9) # 8



(1) Mississippi County Courthouse
(2) Doceola, Ark.

B) Archie R. Moore
(D) Jan. 11, 1978
(D) Frame # 2
(D) South or reak view of courthouse
(T) # 9



(1) Mississippi County Courthouse

(2) Osceola, Ark.
(3) Archie R. Moore
(4) Jan. 11, 1998

(5) Frame # 19
(6) South east carner of courtroom
(7) # 10



(1) Mississippi county courthouse
(2) Osceola, Arx.
(3) Archie 2. Moore
(4) Jan. 11, 1918
(4) Jan. 11, 1918
(5) Frame #9
(6) Front or north view (closeup)
(7) #11

orth cost cien



Mississippi County Courthouse Blytheville, AR 72315

Re: Mississippi County Courthouse, Osceola

Dear Judge Banks:

The staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program is preparing a National Register nomination for the above captioned property which will be presented to the Arkansas State Review Committee at their June meeting. If approved, the nomination will be submitted to the National Register office in Washington for final consideration.

The National Register of Historic Places is a listing of historic sites, buildings, objects and districts from all across the country that are worthy of preservation. Entry in the National Register is an honor which places an obligation on a private owner. It does, however, provide protection through comment by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation from federally financed, assisted or licensed projects that might affect a National Register property.

On October 4, 1976, the President signed a Tax Reform Act of which Section 2124 refers to tax incentives for historic properties. Enclosed you will find an information sheet on that tax act.

If you have any questions concerning the program or this property's nomination, please contact Sandra Taylor Smith of our staff.

Enclosed are two copies of this letter. Please complete the form below, sign and return the original to our office. The copy is for your files. We would appreciate receiving any comments you might have concerning the nomination of this property. If we do not hear from you within 30 days your approval will be assumed.

incerely,
Barbare Woodare
arbara Woodard, Deputy Director rkansas Historic Preservation Program
approve of the nomination of the above property to the National Register Historic Places. YesNo
omments:
Date Signature



MISSISSIPPI COUNTY ARKANSAS



COURT HOUSE BLYTHEVILLE, ARKANSAS PHONE 763.3212

A. A. "SHUG" BANKS COUNTY JUDGE

September 28, 1978

COURT HOUSE OSCEOLA, ARKANSAS PHONE 563-2741

Dr. William J. Murtagh Keeper of the National Register Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service Dept. of the Interior Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Mississippi County Courthouse

Dear Mr. Murtagh:

My office recently initiated procedures to have the Mississippi County courthouse, located in Osceola, placed on the National Register of Historic Places. This is the oldest of two courthouses in the County. We believe that the Osceola courthouse has played a significant role in the social development of the southern half of the County.

The three story columned building topped with the imposing copper dome has served as the hub of development for the city of Osceola. The beautiful relief designs of the courtroom and the multi-colored stone tile floors still impress visitors. News of our attempt to have the building placed on the Register has inspired a good deal of community pride and support.

I urge your careful consideration in the matter and am looking forward to your reply. If I can be of any service, please feel free to contact me.

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)

Dr. William J. Murtagh Dept. of the INterior Mashington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Murtagh:

County courthouse, losated in Osceola, placed on the National Register of Historic Places. This is the oldest of two courthouses in the County. We believe that the Osceola courthouse has half of the County.

The beautiful relief designs of the courtroom and the multi-colored stone tile floors still impress visitors. News of our attempt deal of community pride and support.

forward to your reply. If I can be of any service, please feel free to contact me.

DATE REC'D

DATE ACTON TAKEN 10-12

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ARKANSAS

Date Entered

DEC 1 3 1978

Name

Location

Portia School

Portia

Mississippi County Courthouse

Lawrence County

White, W. J., House

Osceola Mississippi County

Russellville Pope County

Also Notified

Honorable Dale Bumpers Honorable David Pryor Honorable Bill Alexander Honorable John P. Hammerschwidt

State Historic Preservation Officer Ms. Anne Bartley Acting Director Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Suite 500, Continental Building Markham and Main Streets Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

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ONAME as it appears on federal regist Mississippi County Courthouse		sceola Courthouse		(3)	DEC 1 3 1978, O93
(5) LOCATION street & number	city / town	vicinity of	state	county	6NPS REGION:
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BACCESS ☐ YES-Restricted ☐ YES-Unrestrict	ted No Access Unknown	ADAPTIVE USE TYES THO 1		S PROPERTY A H	IISTORIC DISTRICT? yes no
21 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:	ENGINEERING-11 LANDSCAPE ARCH.	15 POLITICS / GOVT 21	RECREATION -28	@CLAIMS:	explain
ARCHEOLOGY - prehistoric - 2 COMMERCE - 6	ENTERTAINMENT-26 LAW-16	☐ RELIGION - 22	SETTLEMENT-29	'first'	
☐ ARCHEOLOGY - historic - 1 ☐ COMMUNICATIONS - 7 ☐	EXPLORATION -12 D LITERATURE - 17	SCIENCE- 23	URBAN PLANNING-31	'oldest'□	
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28 functions	@	dates of initial construction:			STHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION
WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT:		major alterations:			
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alandscape architect/garden designer:	minterior decorator:	artist:	artisan:	@builder/	contractor:
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