

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

For HCRS use only
received **DEC 3 1980**
date entered **JAN 26 1981**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Old Washington County Courthouse

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 400 Frank Phillips Blvd. not for publication

city, town Bartlesville vicinity of congressional district 1 & 2

state Oklahoma code 40 county Washington code 147

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Washington County Commissioners

street & number 5th and Johnstone

city, town Bartlesville vicinity of state OK 74003

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County Courthouse

street & number 5th and Johnstone

city, town Bartlesville state Oklahoma 74003

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date January 30, 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Oklahoma City state Oklahoma 73105

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Old Washington County Courthouse is constructed of reinforced concrete. Other building materials include buff brick and stone. Ground floor walls, referred to as the "pedestal", are of rusticated stone which is laid-up with very heavy horizontal shadow lines, periodically pierced with entrances and window openings. Each of the entrances are capped with a stone pediment and are located on each side of the building. Two grand stairways conduct the visitor from the sidewalk level to the main entrance which is the most dominant feature of the entire building and is located on the west side. The pedimented double entry doorway and second and third floor windows are framed by a decorative stone enclosure which terminates in a broad arch over the third floor window. That window is unusual in its "radius" design and serves an office on the jail level. The decorative stone frame has alternating "double bud" and "circular boss" features. The "bosses" are electrified and each receives a lamp to illuminate the entrance and arch at night. These lamps are not protected in any way and are subjected to the elements. Transom glass and sidelights of the main entrance are protected with metal grilles.

Ground landscaping is low and includes evergreens about 8' tall with a bermuda lawn filling in to the sidewalks.

First floor windows are capped with projected horizontal stone lintels which are supported at each end with vertical stone consoles and corbeled brick masonry. The stone plinth at the first floor level incorporates the window sills in its construction. Windows are tall wood framed single paned casements with transoms above.

Second floor windows are similar wood casements and transoms above stone sills. Lintels are stone, carved in a "bound" leaf pattern. Slit openings containing tall narrow windows occur at each side of the stone entrance frame and at the sides of the north and south elevations of three window groupings. A belt entablature of brick and stone dominates the building at the third floor level and is broken only by the decorative stone above the west entrance.

Third floor windows, other than in the arch, are singular and mostly in groups of threethree. Many are barred since this level contained the County jail. A brick and stone cornice completes the top of the building as a parapet wall which is capped with natural glazed coping tiles. This cornice also follows the arch over the previously mentioned entrance and high windows and is stone capped.

The building roof is pierced with an extension of the jail which contains a second level above the third floor. This structure is similar in appearance to a penthouse and is also constructed of reinforced concrete.

The east end of the County Court House reflects the oval court rooms by the curved wall surfaces which are divided with six masonry pilasters and windows. Treatments for openings in these walls are the same as for the others with the exception of not having decorated lintels over the second floor windows. The roof over this portion of the building is pitched from a flat metal oval at the main roof level down to guttering on the perimeter, behind the parapets, at approximately the third floor level. Anthemion's originally decorated the edges of the flat metal oval roof.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates *1913/14 (see below)* **Builder/Architect**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Old Washington County Courthouse has achieved significance through its architecture and its role in the governmental system of Washington County. As described in Item #7 the structure possesses many of the features characteristic of the Second Renaissance Revival style, and is the only example of this style identified in Washington County. It is situated on the eastern edge of Bartlesville's downtown area. Surrounded by modest residential structures and light commercial buildings, the Old Washington County Courthouse is the prominent structure of the area, and is visible for several blocks in all directions. For sixty-seven years the building was the seat of government for Washington County.

On November 20, 1906, the Oklahoma Constitutional Convention began. During December of that year the designation of counties was made. One of those counties created from the old Cherokee Nation was Washington County, and the City of Bartlesville was designated the county seat. On September 20, 1907, elections were held to select county officials who would take office with statehood on November 16, 1907. The first elected officials of Washington County had no facility in which to locate their operations. The various functions of the county government were distributed throughout Bartlesville wherever vacant space could be found.

Then, in 1909, the Washington County Commissioners petitioned the City Council of Bartlesville to close a portion of Third Street between Shawnee and Delaware to provide space for construction of a courthouse. The Council agreed. However, it was not until April 1912 that a \$115,000 bond issue was finally passed by the citizens of Washington County for the purpose of building the structure. This was the third attempt by the commissioners to obtain passage of the issue.

The services of the architect P. H. Weathers of Guthrie, Oklahoma, were obtained, and Inland Construction Company of Chandler, Oklahoma, began construction of the courthouse in May 1913. The project, supervised by J.W. Mann, was completed approximately one year later, and the structure was dedicated on May 11, 1914. Courtroom facilities, offices, and the county jail all were housed there until 1974 when the county government was moved into new facilities.

Today, a portion of the building is utilized by the National Guard. There is an effort underway between the Washington County Commissioners and the Washington County Historical Society to provide for an adaptive reuse of the building.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Tague, Margaret Withers. History of Washington County and Surrounding Area
(Bartlesville Historical Commission: 1967). vertical Files, Bartlesville
Public Library.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UMT References

A

1	5	2	3	4	7	2	0	4	10	7	11	1	10	10
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 5, Block 33 original City

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state Oklahoma code 40 county Washington code 147

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Melvena Thurman, Deputy SHPO

organization Oklahoma Historical Society

date August 19, 1980

street & number Historical Building

telephone 405/521-2491

city or town Oklahoma City

state Oklahoma 73105

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title SHPO

date 11/13/80

For HCERS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date 1/24/81

date

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 18 1984
DATE ENTERED	

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

already listed
N R 1/26/81

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER various PAGE 48

Old Washington County Courthouse (listed in the National Register January 26, 1981)

Location: 400 Frank Phillips Blvd., Bartlesville, Oklahoma 040, Washington County 147

Owner: Washington County Commissioners, 5th and Johnston, Bartlesville, Oklahoma

Description: Condition: good, unaltered, original site

The Old Washington County Courthouse is constructed of buff brick, reinforced concrete, and stone. The ground floor, actually a raised basement, has a rusticated stone facade and each of the ground floor entrances is capped with a stone pediment. Two curved staircases lead to the main entrance, which is on the first-floor level. The front entranceway is composed of a monumental stone arch which terminates over the third-floor windows. The decorative stonework of the arch has alternating double bud and circular boss features. The bosses are electrified and each receives a lamp to illuminate the entrance and arch at night. A belt entablature of brick and stone encircles the building beneath the top-floor windows and is broken only by the decorative stone arch above the west entrance. The east side of the building has a curved wall with six masonry pilasters separating its window bays. A brick and stone cornice surmounts the building along with a low parapet, both of which follow the lines of the west arch.

Significance:

The Old Washington County Courthouse is significant because of its architecture and its role in the governmental system of Washington County. This building served the county for sixty-seven years as the seat of government. It ceased to be used as the county courthouse in 1974. The structure exhibits many architecture elements characteristic of the Second Renaissance Revival style, and is the only example of this style identified in Washington County. There is an effort under way by the Washington County Commissioners and the Washington County Historical Society to provide for an adaptive reuse of the building.

Acreage: Less than one acre

Quadrangle: 1:24,000/7.5 minute

Verbal Boundary Description: Lot 5, Block 33 original city

UTM: 14 234720 4071115