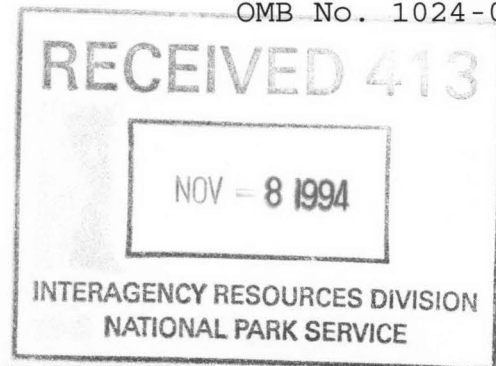


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name: New Rocky Comfort Jail

other name/site number: N/A

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number: SE Corner of Third and Schuman Streets

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Foreman

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Little River code: AR 081 zip code: 71836

=====

3. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

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>0</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

=====
4. State/Federal Agency Certification
=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Cathryn A. Statu
Signature of certifying official

10-14-94
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====
5. National Park Service Certification
=====

I, hereby certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register
_____ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the
National Register

_____ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register

☐ removed from the National Register

☐ other (explain): _____

Edson H. Beall 12.9.94

Entered in the
National Register

[Signature] Signature of Keeper Date
of Action

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic: Government Sub: Correctional Facility

Current : Recreation and Culture Sub: Museum

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification:

Other: Plain Traditional

Other Description: Stacked-plank construction

Materials: foundation Concrete roof Metal
walls Weatherboard other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

=====
8. Statement of Significance
=====

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1902 - c. 1928

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

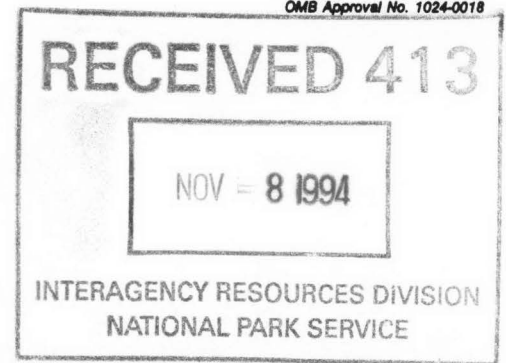
Architect/Builder: Hopson, Bun

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.
X See continuation sheet.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1



Summary

The New Rocky Comfort Jail, located near the southeast corner of Third and Schuman streets in Foreman, is a single story building in the Plain Traditional style resting on a foundation of concrete block piers and covered by a metal gable roof. Built in 1902 by local carpenter Bun Hopson, the structure is unusual as it is constructed of stacked two-by-six planks for the floor, walls, and ceiling of the rectangular section.

Elaboration

Located near the southeast corner of Third and Schuman streets in Foreman, the New Rocky Comfort Jail is a single story, T-shaped building constructed in 1902 in the Plain Traditional style. Originally, the building consisted of a forty-three feet by twenty-one feet rectangular plan; however, prior to 1928, a "T" addition was added to the southern side. The walls are constructed of stacked two-by-six rough pine lumber, while the ceiling and floor are constructed of the same two-by-six boards laid edge-wise. On the exterior, the walls are sheathed with white-painted, drop-type, novelty wood siding and covered by a silver-painted, battened-metal gable roof (previously covered with asphalt shingles and, originally, split wood shingles) and rest on concrete block piers. All of the windows are of the two-over-two double-hung type.

The present front entrance is located on the western elevation of the building. A poured concrete stoop leads to a centrally located single-leaf door that is protected by a gable roof porch supported by wood posts. The northern elevation is composed of six evenly spaced two-over-two double-hung windows. In contrast, the eastern elevation is not fenestrated and is marked only by an elevated, centrally located shed placed over the air-conditioning unit.

A conventional-frame "T" addition was built onto the center the southern elevation prior to in 1928. Likewise covered by a gable roof, this addition may have been used as the main entrance to the building after construction. Visible on the original walls on either side of the "T" are four window openings. Three of these are covered and the fourth window is located on the far western end. The eastern and western elevations of the "T" are lighted by single, centrally placed windows. The southern elevation is composed of a central single-leaf entrance with a window on each side. A shed-roof porch supported by chamfered posts extends from the addition.

Other than the historic "T" addition, the structure has been little altered. In the 1930's, the building was used at times as a dance hall, and a conventional pine floor was installed over the edgewise-laid, plank flooring to better facilitate this purpose. Later a wall partition was added at the western end to create an office space and a bathroom.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1

Summary

Built in 1902, the New Rocky Comfort Jail has served the community of Foreman almost continually since its construction. It is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance as an excellent representative of the stacked-plank type of construction.

Elaboration

According to Indian folklore, Rocky Comfort, originally called Willow Springs, was so named because there was a spring, shaded by many willow trees, running through the lime rock. Animals would come to the spring to drink the cool water and rest under the willow trees, therefore the Indians called it "Rocky Comfort" because it was rocky and the shade gave comfort to the animals. By 1850, Rocky Comfort was a thriving community on top of a hill, and by the 1860's, it began to develop down the hill and across the fairly level ground below. The courthouse, blacksmith shop, stores, and other establishments spread out in several different directions. Rocky Comfort was named the county seat in 1868, and remained the center for county government until 1880 when the county seat was moved to Richmond.

When the Arkansas and Choctaw Railroad built its line from Ashdown to Arkinda in 1895, it cut through virgin forest one mile north of Rocky Comfort on right-of-way easements sold to the company by Carl Schuman, Bettie Bell, Joe Madden and Horace Coontz. By 1900, businessmen, as well as residents, of Rocky Comfort recognized the potential and added convenience of locating directly on a rail line. A new community began to grow, and the residents called it "New Rocky Comfort." The Arkansas and Choctaw Railroad, however, named the community "Foreman" in honor of Ben Foreman, a noted republican from Texarkana. When the Post Office was officially established in 1900, it was named Foreman in keeping with the railroad designation. Because of the dual identity of the town, all mortgages and deeds carried a description in the new town as being situated in New Rocky Comfort (Foreman). It was not until 1959 that Act 83 proposed by Marion Crank, legislator from Little River County, legally changed the name of the town from New Rocky Comfort to Foreman.

In 1902 the county seat was moved from Richmond to Foreman and the New Rocky Comfort Jail was built on Block 30, which was set aside for county government. Located in the middle of town, Block 30 was donated by C.A."Carl" Schuman, a successful local businessman. Bun Hopson, a local carpenter, built the jail. The stacked two-by-six pine boards used in construction of the building would ensure no one would escape from the jail. Ironically, local legend holds

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2

that Mr. Hopson was also the first citizen to be incarcerated in the facility, for public intoxication. Before a courthouse could be erected, however, the county seat moved in 1905 to Ashdown, and the jail remained the solitary government building on the block, much of which remains vacant.

Serving the community at various times as a jail, city hall, dance hall, civic club meeting place, and library, the building currently houses the New Rocky Comfort Museum.

The New Rocky Comfort Jail is significant as an excellent representative of the unusual stacked-plank method of jail construction. Although it is recorded that the town of DeQueen in neighboring Sevier County also utilized this vernacular building technique for its 1890's jail, the New Rocky Comfort Jail is the only known specimen in Southwest Arkansas to have survived. As such, it is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance.

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

X See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

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

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>370650</u>	<u>3732100</u>	B	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
C	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	D	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

 See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

The New Rocky Comfort Jail is situated on part of Block 30, the public square of the City of Foreman. Beginning at the southeast corner of the intersection of 3rd and Schuman Streets, proceed east along the southern curblineline of 3rd Street to the intersection with a line formed by, yet fifteen feet from, the western elevation of the jail. Then proceed south along said line to its intersection with a line formed by, yet fifteen feet from, the southern elevation of the "T" addition. Then proceed west along this line to its intersection with the eastern curblineline of Schuman Street. Then proceed north along this line to the point of beginning.

Boundary justification: See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all of the property historically associated with this resource that retains its integrity.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 1

Bibliography

Information submitted by Louise Knickerbocker, February 1994.

Beasley, Bill. *Little River County*. Little River County Historical Society, 1986 (original copyright 1975).

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

Name/Title: Robin Baldwin, Survey Historian
Lynne Braddock, Special Projects Coordinator
Patrick Zollner, National Register Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 10/14/94

Street & Number: 323 Center, 1600 Tower Bldg. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY New Rocky Comfort Jail
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Little River

DATE RECEIVED: 11/08/94 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/22/94
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/08/94 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/23/94
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 94001465

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 12.9.94 DATE Entered in the
National Register.

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

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

CLASSIFICATION

___ count ___ resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___ historic ___ current

DESCRIPTION

___ architectural classification
___ materials
___ descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

___ summary paragraph
___ completeness
___ clarity
___ applicable criteria
___ justification of areas checked
___ relating significance to the resource
___ context
___ relationship of integrity to significance
___ justification of exception
___ other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___ acreage ___ verbal boundary description
___ UTM's ___ boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___ sketch maps ___ USGS maps ___ photographs ___ presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Phone _____

Signed _____

Date _____



OPEN
MON - FRI
8:00 - 12:00
542-0347 / 7987

See Andy's Catalog
Handmade
Beds, N. 2nd
Floor


New Rocky Comfort Jail
Foreman, Little River Co., Arkansas
Photograph by Patrick Zollner
July 1994
Negative on file at AHPP
View from the north



New Rocky Comfort Jail
Foreman, Little River Co., Arkansas
Photograph by Patrick Zollner
July 1994
Negative on file at AHPP
View from the northwest



New Rocky Comfort Jail
Foreman, Little River Co., Arkansas
Photograph by Patrick Zollner
July 1994
Negative on file at AHPP
View from the southwest





New Rocky Comfort Jail
Foreman, Little River Co., Arkansas
Photograph by Patrick Zollner
July 1994
Negative on file at ANPP
View from the southeast



New Rocky Comfort Jail

Foreman, Little River Co., Arkansas

Photograph by Patrick Zolher

July 1994

Negative on file at AHPP

View of interior from
the west.



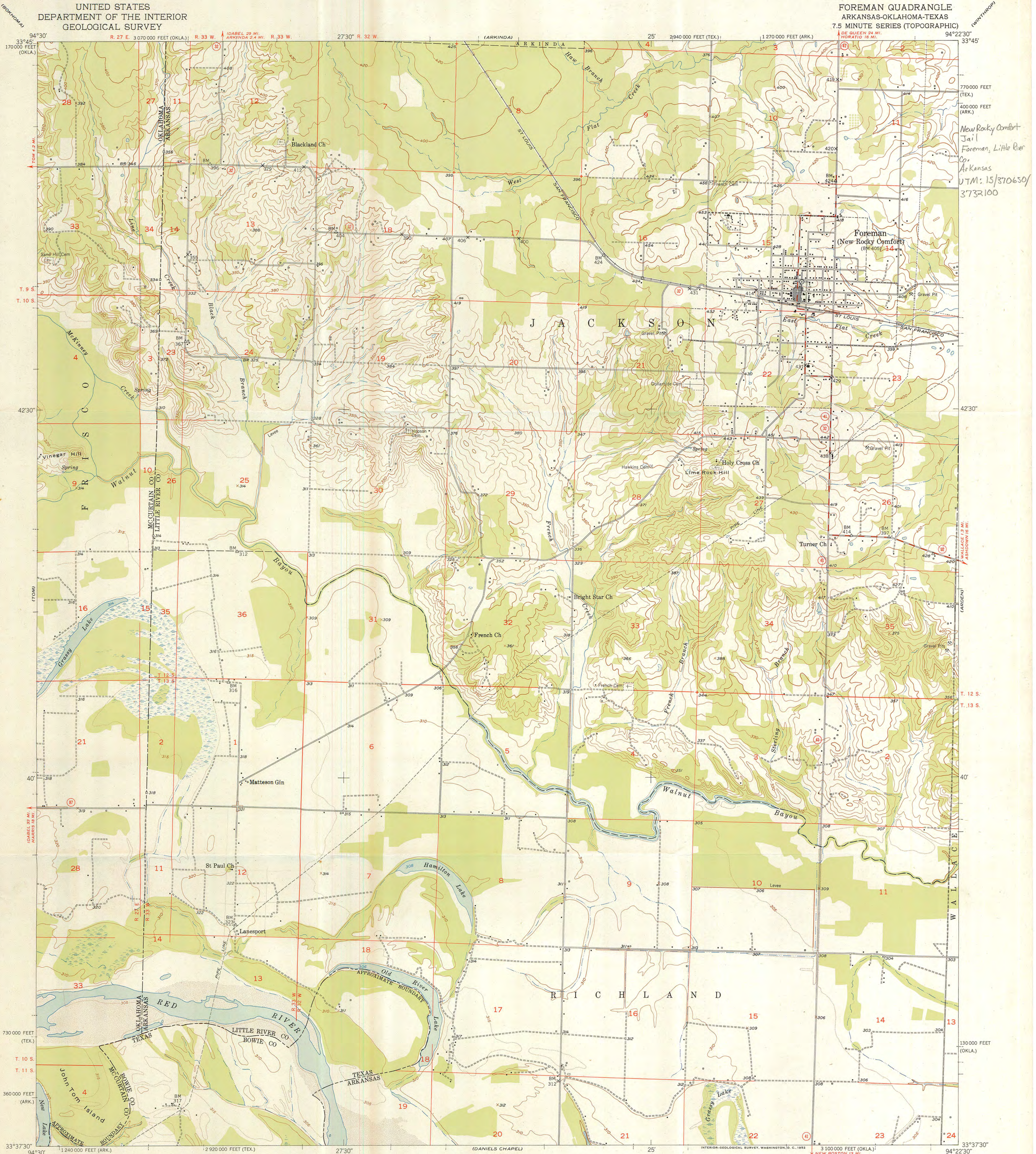
New Rocky Comfort Jail
Foreman, Little River Co., Arkansas
Photograph by Patrick Zollner
July 1994
Negative on file at AHPP
View of wall construction looking
into "T" addition from the
northeast



New Rocky Comfort Jail
Foreman, Little River Co., Arkansas
Photograph by Patrick Zollner
July 1994
Negative on file at AHPP
View of floor cut out revealing
original edge-laid floor

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

FOREMAN QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS-OKLAHOMA-TEXAS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE
Culture and drainage in part compiled from
aerial photographs taken 1949
Topography by plane-table methods 1949-1951
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Arkansas coordinate system,
south zone, Oklahoma coordinate system, south zone,
and Texas coordinate system, north central zone

TRUE NORTH
MAGNETIC NORTH
APPROXIMATE MEAN
DECLINATION, 1951

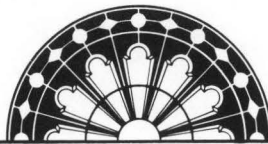
SCALE 1:24,000
1 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 5 10 KILOMETER
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT HALF-INTERVAL CONTOURS
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, FEDERAL CENTER, DENVER, COLORADO OR WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
AND BY THE ARKANSAS RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

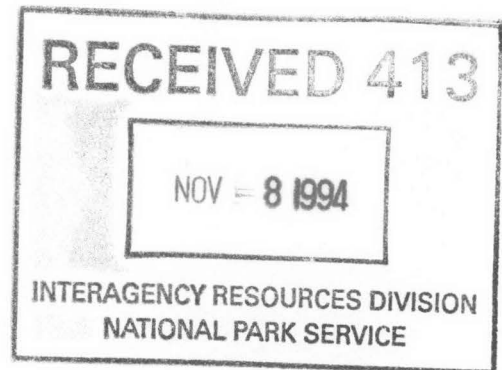
ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty... Light-duty...
Medium-duty... Unimproved dirt...
 U. S. Route State Route

FOREMAN, ARK.-OKLA.-TEX.
N3337.5-W9422.5/7.5

1951



ARKANSAS
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
PROGRAM



October 14, 1994

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
800 North Capitol Street, Suite 250
Washington, DC 20002

RE: New Rocky Comfort Jail

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination of the above referenced property. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathy Buford Slater
State Historic Preservation Officer

CBS:sdh

Enclosure

