SURVEY RECORDS CITY, TOWN

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

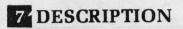
# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PH0682934
FOR NPS USE ONLY

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STATE

SEE INS	STRUCTIONS IN HOW T				
NAME	oda 3 fan-eno Ena dwi	r el ceministr	mby Countingues County	The Clark Co	
HISTORIC					
Clark County Co	ourthouse				
AND/OR COMMON		a compliantion of	West, The roof in	and acidence	
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Fourth & Critte	enden (Court Square)	SOURCE HAVE BUILDING	NOT FOR PUBLICATION  CONGRESSIONAL DISTRI	CT	
Arkadelphia		VICINITY OF	Fourth		
STATE	g. sailered besides.	CODE	COUNTY	CODE	
Arkansas		05	Clark	019	
CLASSIFICA	TION				
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE		
DISTRICT	XPUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM	
X BUILDING(S)	PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK	
	ВОТН	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDEN	
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS	
	IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	XGOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC	
	BEING CONSIDERED	X YES: UNRESTRICTEDNO	INDUSTRIAL MILITARY	TRANSPORTATION	
OWNER OF I	PROPERTY				
NAME					
Judge R. W. St	evenson	•			
Clark County Co	ourthouse				
CITY, TOWN			STATE		
Arkadelphia		VICINITY OF	Arkansas		
LOCATION (	OF LEGAL DESCR	IPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC	Clark County Cou	rthouse			
STREET & NUMBER	order councy cou	Lenouse			
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	ATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS			
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DEPOSITORY FOR					



\_\_FAIR

#### CONDITION

X\_EXCELLENT \_\_DETERIORATED \_\_ROUNS

\_\_RUINS
\_\_UNEXPOSED

\_UNALTERED

XALTERED

CHECK ONE

X ORIGINAL SITE

\_\_MOVED DATE\_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Clark County Courthouse, built in 1899, is a two and one-half story structure. The major mass of the structure is rectangular with a six story parapeted clock tower on the northwestern corner, hexagon towers on the three remaining sides, a projecting enclosed entrance porch on the north, and a twice-projecting bay with enclosed entrance porch on the west. The roof is a combination of hips and gables with six sided conical roofs on the hexagon towers. The towers are topped in finials and there is cresting on the roof major. Windows are segmental arches on the first story, and full arches with double rows of brick voussiors on the second, with the exception of the north elevation, where windows are flat arches on the first story and relieving arches on the second. Windows have stone lentils and sills. Opening on entrance porches are three centered arches whose radii are trimmed in terra cotta.

Walls on the first floor have wainscots of narrow vertical boarding. Floors are finished in ceramic tiles. Air vents are iron filigree. Two stairs lead to the second floor; both have elaborately turned newel posts and balusters. The second floor passageway has a vaulted ceiling, (non-structural). Jury boxes, judge's bench, floors, and lighting fixtures are original.

Alterations include a small rectangular addition to the east elevation of the building and a dropped ceiling in the courtroom. Originally the clock tower was topped by a conical roof.

PERIOD

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

PREHISTORIC	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	XCOMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
_1400-1499	_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
_1700-1799	_ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
X1800-1899	COMMERCE	_XEXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION
<u>X</u> 1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	_INDUSTRY	X POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION	Medelonda, Ark.	

SPECIFIC DATES 1899

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Charles Thompson

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1899 by R. S. O'Neal after a Charles Thompson design, the Clark County Courthouse is a Romanesque-styled, architecturally significant structure that occupies a site and serves a purpose (i.e., county courthouse) closely connected with the early settlement of Arkadelphia, the county seat. Also, in the area of community planning, the original town plan in Arkadelphia utilized the courtsquare as a community focal point. However, this initial plan was soon abandoned and the business/commercial district developed along an east-west Main Street axis. Finally, the county courthouse in Clark County, as in the rest of Arkansas, acts as a structural symbol of American government while it serves as the center of political activity.

Named for William Clark, Governor of the Missouri Territory, Clark County was created as the fourth county in the Arkansas Territory by the Missouri Legislature on December 15, 1818. In 1842 Arkadelphia became the fifth location for the county seat when a brick courthouse was built in the center of the townsquare.

The construction of the courthouse provided the major impetus for the early settlement and growth of Arkadelphia. Originally called Blakeley's Hill, the town-site was a high bluff on the west bank of the Ouachita River, a large navigable river which cuts across the county. The commissioners who chose the site changed its name to Arkadelphia, platted lots and held a public sale of lots on February 8, 1843, for the purpose of raising funds to pay for the courthouse.

In 1899 the county hired Charles Thompson, then Arkansas's leading architect, to design a new and larger courthouse. The end product was the large two and a half story, brick Romanesque-style structure that continues to dominate the courtsquare in Arkadelphia. The courthouse occupies the site of its predecessor. Virtually unaltered, the irregular mass of the structure features a six-story parapeted clock tower on its north-east corner. The conical roof which once surmounted this tower has been removed. Hexagonal towers with steeple roofs are located on the three remaining corners. The three entrances to the building (north, west and south elevations) are approached through Romanesque-arched porches. Terra cotta tablets bearing the name of the courthouse and its date of construction molded in script are located above the porch arches. A compatible, rectangular one-story brick addition projects from the east elevation.

The interior remains in excellent condition and is distinguished by the amount and condition of the original wooden trim. Both large interior stairways are in excellent condition and are unaltered. Detailing in the second floor courtroom, judge's chamber and jury room exhibits a high degree of craftsmanship. However, a modern drop ceiling obscures the original ceiling in the courtroom.

See Continuation Sheet.

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LIST ALL STATES A	ND COUNTIES FOR PROPERT	TIES OVERLAPPING STAT	E OR COUNTY BOUNDA	RIES
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ORGANIZATION	Architectural histor	rian, Mike Shinn,	DATE	sacra vila in
STREET & NUMBER	ric Preservation Prog	gram	371-2763 TELEPHONE	
Suite 500 Cont	inental Building		STATE	16,816,217,217,227,227
Little Rock, A	rkansas 72201	medi "noscrodo de	มแบบ hisea Grazi	NEWS CORE HI
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TITLE	and he is to make the sale		DATE	8-2-18
FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT T	HIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED	IN THE NATIONAL REGIS	STER	20 ufy
A Phaeline	alfung 5		DATE /2. / 7	1-30-
ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIO	DNAL REGISTER		DATE 11-30	7.7
CHIEF OF REGISTRATIO			11 90	10

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

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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DATE ENTERED DEC 1 1978

**CONTINUATION SHEET** 

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 1

In Arkansas the county government is the first and perhaps most personal link in the chain of representative democracy and the county courthouse serves as a tangible symbol of this fact. Most administrative and judicial officials in county government are elected through a county-wide election, while the members of the fiscal body, the Quorum Court, are elected in township elections. It is the responsibility of county government to assess and tax property, maintain the county highways, provide rural law enforcement, maintain the county jail, regulate the incorporation and boundary expansion of towns and cities, issue marriage licenses, systematically file records of deeds, mortgages, liens and bonds, perform judicial duties in minor civil or criminal cases and other duties too numerous to list.

The building which houses county government in Arkansas is often the most elaborate structure in the county. The Clark County Courthouse was probably, at the time of its construction, the finest and largest building in Clark County and today stands as one of the most impressive examples of historic architecture in Arkadelphia. After a survey of all Arkansas courthouses conducted by the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program in 1975, the Clark County Courthouse was rated as being one of Arkansas's most significant surviving county courthouses.

Form No. 10-300a (Hev. 10-74)

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**CONTINUATION SHEET** 

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

## Bibliography

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- A Survey of Arkansas Courthouses. Compiled by the National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of Arkansas. Mrs. W. G. McDonald, Chairperson, Historical Activities Committee. Arkansas Room, Little Rock Public Library.
- Wagoner, Paul W., Ed. County Government Across the Nation. Chapell Hill: University of North Carolina Press. 1950.

Property Clark Country Courthouse 78000577	
State ark. Working Number 8.23.78. 3935	
Photos 12  Maps 1  Photos 12  Maps 1	
Significance: political associations/value of courthouse are well-summarized. Defer to architect on accuracy of architectural value/description. Obviously important for interior detailing, furnishingm. Better summary of value, that usual.  Can call on date and UTM.	78
THE AROUNTECONEM IS SHORT BUT DEPONDED ADDRESSED ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN AS FRANCIS I CAN JUDGE ACCUMATE.  ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN ACCUMATE  MARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN  ACCUMATE  MARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN  MARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN  MARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN  MARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN  MARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN  MARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN  MARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN	
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REVIEW UNIT CHIEF  as summarged above. Sheefs for ?  Significant in both historical / architectual	_
BRANCH CHIEF	
KEEPER	
National Register Write-up Send-back Entered DEC 1 1978  Federal Register Entry 2-6-79 Re-submit INT:2106-74	



Clark County Courthouse Arkadelphia, Arkansas Mike Shinn 1978 North Elevation viewed from the north #1

AUG 2 3 1978



Clark County Courthouse Arkadelphia, Arkansas Mike Shinn 1978 West elevation viewed from the west #2

DEC 1 1978

AUG 2 3 1978



Clark County Courthouse Arkadelphia, Arkansas Mike Shinn 1978 South elevation viewed from the southeast #3

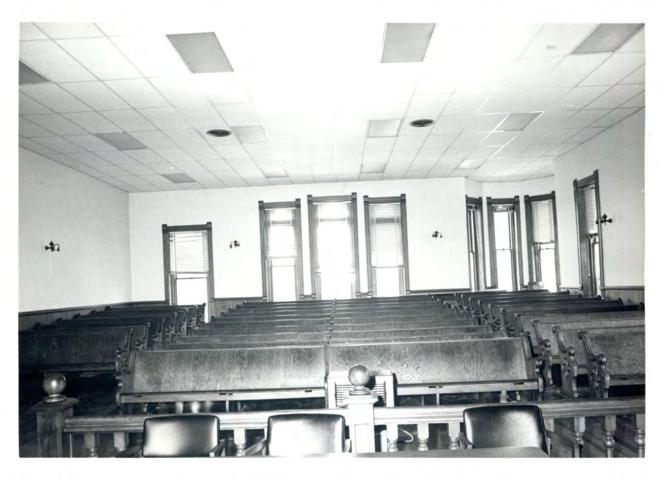
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Clark County Courthouse
Arkadelphia, Arkansas
Mike Shinn
1978
Plaque over entrance south elevation
#4

DEC 1 1978

AUG 2 3 1978



Clark county Courthouse ARkadelphia, Arkansas Mike Shinn 1978 Second floor courtroom facing south #5

AUG 2 3 1978



Clark County Courthouse
Arkadelphia, Arkansas
Mike Shinn
1978
Second floor courtroom facing west
#6

AUG 2 3 1978



Clark County Courthouse Arkadelphia, Arkansas Mike Shinn 1978 Judges chambers, facingnorthwest #7

DEC 1 1978 AUG 2 3 1978



Clark County Cpurthouse Arkadelphia, Arkansas Mike Shinn 1978 First floor hall facing west #8

AUG 2 3 1978



Clark County Courthouse Arkadelphia, Arkansas Mike Shinn 1978 Second floor hall facing west #9

DEC 1 1978 AUG 2 3 1978



Clark County Courthouse
Arkadelphia, Arkansas
Mike Shinn
1978
Stairway, West side of the first floor
#10

AUG 2 3 1978



Clark County Courthouse Arkadelphia, ARkansas Mike Shinn 1978 Stairway landing, western stairs #11

DEC 1 1978 AUG 2 3 1978



Clark County Courthouse Arkadelphia, Arkansas Mike Shinn 1978 Eastern stairway, first floor #12

AUG 2 3 1978



The Honorable R. W. Stevenson Clark County Judge Clark County Courthouse Arkadelphia, AR 71923

Re: Clark Co. Courthouse, Arkadelphia

Dear Judge Stevenson:

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.

Sincerely, Barbara Woodard

Barbara Woodard, Deputy Director Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

I approve of the nomination of the above property to the National Register of Historic Places. Yes No

Comments:

Date

Signature

## ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE

ARKANSAS

Date Entered

DEC 1 1978

Name

\_\_\_\_

Gordon, Troy, House

Clark County Courthouse

Washington County Jail

Womack-Parker House

Battery C Site

Holt, Flavius, House

Massey Hotel

Medical Arts Building

Location

Fayetteville Washington County

Arkadelphia Clark County

Fayetteville Washington County

Nashville Howard County

Phillips County

Nashville Howard County

Bentonville Benton County

Hot Springs Garland County

## Also Notified

Honorable Dale Bumpers
Honorable Kaneaster Hodges, Jr.
Honorable John P. Hammerschmidt
Honorable Ray Thornton
Honorable Bill Alexander

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 SHE (4) county code: 2 OTHER NAMES: NAME as it appears on federal register: 019 Clark County Courthouse (6)NPS REGION: county LOCATION street & number 4th and Crittenden Sts. vicinity of state city / town Arkadelphia AR Clark SW **B**ADMINISTRATOR OWNER PRIVATE STATE MUNICIPAL COUNTY MULTIPLE FEDERAL (agency name) (9) EXISTING SURVEYS HABS HAER HAER HALL (10) FUNDED? HES HO (11) CONGRESS, DISTRICT 4+h 12 SOURCE of NOMINATION FEDERAL if state who prepared form? (M) WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? MUNITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC BISTRICT? DLOCAL PRIVATE ORGANIZATION E3-84 \* THE MARK CITIC NAME SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT - 3 Original site 17 features: SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 CONDITION altered deteriorated PO NOT INTACT-O ONOT INTACT-O O NOT INTACT - O Dexcellent Oruins. Qunaltered moved E □ UNKNOWN-4 good UNKNOWN-5 5 UNKNOWN -6 unexposed □ reconstructed □unknown NOT APPLICABLE - 9 **D**fair □unexcavated Dexcavated Z□ NOT APPLICABLE - 7 WO NOT APPLICABLE-8 ADAPTIVE USE YES NO 20 IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? yes no SAVED? TYES YES-Restricted YES-Unrestricted Unknown No Access BACCESS ©CLAIMS: explain 'first'□ ☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH.- 15 ☐ POLITICS / GOVT.- 21 RECREATION -28 **AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:** ☐ ENGINEERING - 11 ☐ LAW - 16 SETTLEMENT-29 □ ARCHEOLOGY - prehistoric - 2 □ COMMERCE - 6 C RELIGION - 22 TENTERTAINMENT-26 COMMUNICATIONS -7 ☐ EXPLORATION - 12 ☐ LITERATURE - 17 SCIENCE- 23 URBAN PLANNING-31 ARCHEOLOGY - historic - 1 'oldest' SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24 OTHER (SPECIFY) MILITARY - 18 ☐ AGRICULTURE -3 CONSERVATION - 8 HEALTH - 27 MUSIC - 19 ARCHITECTURE-4 ☐ INDUSTRY - 13 SOCIAL / CULTURAL - 30 ☐ ECONOMICS - 9 'only' TRANSPORTATION - 25 EDUCATION-10 INVENTION - 14 PHILOSOPHY - 20 ☐ ART-5 ETHNIC GROUP dates of initial construction: functions ASSOCIATION major alterations: WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: historic events: CURRENTLY: @architect: engineer: master builder: architectural style(s): artisan: builder/contractor: minterior decorator: artist: alandscape architect / garden designer: NAMES give role & date PERSONAL: EVENTS: INSTITUTIONAL: SANATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP