

290

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Old Searcy County Jail

other names/site number SE0377

2. Location

street & number State Hwy 27 (Center Street)

not for publication

city or town Marshall

vicinity

state AR code AR county Searcy code 129 zip code 72650

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant

nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*Debbie Mathews*

*4/13/10*

Signature of certifying official/Title

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 for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

*Ethan H. Boall*

*5-28-10*

Old Searcy County Jail  
Name of Property

Searcy County, Arkansas  
County and State

**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

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		Sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

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

N/A

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT;jail  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Romanesque  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone  
walls Stone  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof Metal  
other  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

### Summary

Built in 1901, the Old Searcy County Jail is located just south of the courthouse square in Marshall, Arkansas. The two-story structure has a basic square floor plan and is constructed of locally-quarried sandstone. Barred windows, reinforced doors, and holding cells recall the building's original purpose, while the round-topped arch vent and masonry construction reflect its Romanesque style.

### Elaboration

The structure's continuous cut-stone foundation is topped by four stone walls, into which a number of tall, narrow doors and windows are set. The top of each window is spanned by a cut-stone lenti while the bottom features a cut-stone sill. A lenti caps the top of each door as well. The pyramid metal roof, which was replaced in 1994, is topped with a cupola that houses louvered air vents. While the jail's east elevation borders Center Street, its front façade faces an alley to the north. The structure lies on the edge of the downtown commercial district, one block south of Main Street and the Searcy County Courthouse. It is in excellent condition, having undergone only a few alterations including the removal of four chimneys and other changes made to accommodate the installation of new utilities.

### North Elevation

The front of the Old Searcy County Jail faces north. Its main feature is a shallow central projection topped with a dormer featuring a louvered, arched-topped vent. Centered on this projection are two windows, one on the first floor and one on the second. Two doors flank this projection on the first floor. The east door is completely original, with bars over the transom, while the west door has been altered to accommodate a new exterior wooden door and aluminum screen door. The bars over the transom are missing. A utility meter is mounted just to the left of the west door. On the second floor, two windows flank the projection. Only the first floor window is original, but all windows maintain their original bars.

### West Elevation

There are a series of six windows on the west side of the old jail house, three on each floor. The center column of windows falls slightly to the right of center. The first floor windows are all original, but do not have bars over them. The central window now houses a window air conditioner, while the outer two have been covered with storm windows. The upstairs windows have all been replaced, but each maintains its original bars.

### South Elevation

The back, or south side of the building has only a single door and window on the first floor. The window is original but is covered by an aluminum storm window. The door is sealed off with plywood. The single upstairs window is also blocked by plywood, but it retains its original bars.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

### East Elevation

The layout of the east elevation is essentially a mirror image of the west elevation. There are six windows—three on each floor—but on this side the center column of windows falls slightly to the left of center. All the windows on the first floor are original. The two southernmost windows are covered by aluminum storm windows, while the northernmost window retains its original bars. The upstairs windows have all been replaced but are covered by the original bars.

### Interior

The interior of the building remains largely intact. Four rooms, a kitchen, living room, two bedrooms and a bathroom occupy the lower level. The painted plaster walls and the concrete floor are original. Ceiling tiles constitute the first-floor ceiling, which is lower than it was originally. A metal staircase leads to the jail cells on the upper level, where reinforced metal doors open into holding areas that contain little more than metal-frame bunk beds. This level also features a more secure holding cell encased with thick metal bars and riveted sheet metal. Like the first story, this second floor has painted plaster walls and a concrete floor, but it retains its original plaster ceiling.

The building was originally heated by wood stoves, as evidenced by its sealed flues and chimneys which can be seen in historic photographs. Today, a gas heater on the first level is the only heat source. Electrical conduit running down some of the interior walls indicates addition of electricity after the building's initial construction. This retrofitting of utilities also explains the lowered tile ceiling on the first floor.

**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.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Levels of Significance** (local, state, national)

Local

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

LAW

**Period of Significance**

1902-1960

**Significant Dates**

1902

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Ben Henley Sr., Jim Eatherly, Tom Treadwell, T.J. Thomas, George W. Jackson and foreman John Smith

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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

Name of repository:

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

# National Register of Historic Places

## Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

### Summary

Located on State Highway 27 (Center Street) in Marshall, Arkansas, the Old Searcy County Jail is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under Criterion A for its association with the establishment of law enforcement in Searcy County. It is also being nominated under Criterion C as a good example of architecture with Romanesque Revival influence. The building was built in 1902 and served as the Searcy County Jail until 1976. The Searcy County Historical Society has housed a museum in the structure in the past, but it is not currently being utilized.

### Historical Background

The building, constructed in 1902, was built by Ben Henley Sr., Jim Eatherly, Tom Treadwell, T.J. Thomas, George W. Jackson and the foreman was John Smith. These contractors names appear over and over again throughout the history of Marshall, especially Eatherly and Jackson who were both contractors on the Searcy County Courthouse as well (National Register-listed October 12, 1976). The exterior is made of locally quarried sandstone from a site not far from the location of the structure, known as the old Kenneth Hubbard farm.

The Arkansas State Legislature carved present-day Searcy County from Marion County in 1838. Construction on the first county courthouse did not begin until the late 1840s at Lebanon, located on Bear Creek, five miles west of what is today Marshall. The structure, which also served as the jail, had log walls, a log floor, and even a log judge's bench.

In 1856 county officials decided to move the government to a more centrally-located site. They chose an area five miles east of Lebanon, platted it, and named it Burrowsville in honor of local citizen N.B. Burrow. Five years later, the new courthouse jail played an important role in a notable Civil War incident. Hearing of a significant population of northern sympathizers in Searcy County, the Confederate government in Little Rock ordered Colonel Sam Leslie to arrest anyone in the county loyal to the Union. Colonel Leslie placed seventy-eight suspects in the jail on charges of treason, later giving them a choice between volunteering in the Confederate army or standing trial for their crime. Most joined the army. As the Civil War came to an end, Union troops occupied the Searcy County courthouse and burned it to the ground in January 1864. They abandoned Burrowsville the following month.

The town was renamed Marshall in 1868, and was incorporated on January 13, 1884. According to an affidavit on file in the Circuit Clerk's office, the county courthouse burned at least twice during this postwar period, once in 1878, and again in 1886. In 1899 the county constructed a new courthouse of locally-quarried stone; this courthouse is still in use today.

At the turn of the twentieth century, Searcy County's jail was a two-story log structure. It was erected close to the location of the jail mentioned in this application, but further to the east and possibly south. It was a hot

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

topic for discussion among the townspeople, because the county had trouble keeping prisoners from escaping from the jail. *The Mountain Wave* records the purchase of a more secure holding cell on December 10, 1897. "The steel cage has arrived, but doesn't have the appearance of what it was supposed to be. It should be thoroughly tested before being put in the Tombs and rejected if not entirely satisfactory. Six hundred dollars is too much to pay for a bird cage." Eventually, the townspeople decided to build a new jail of stone, and the old one was demolished. "The old county Bastile was razed to the ground this week, and a more modern structure will be erected on the spot. Oh, what memories cling around the old weather beaten stockade!" proclaimed *The Mountain Wave* on January 18, 1902. The timbers from the old jail were used in road construction throughout the county.

The county submitted a notice to contractors for construction of the new jail on December 7, 1901. Work commenced in January 1902 under the supervision of Sheriff B.A. Watts and was completed sometime around September. The low bidder was B.F. Henley of St. Joe with a bid of \$16,475. Others that contributed to the workmanship of the building included Jim Eatherly, Tom Treadwell, T.J. Thomas, George W. Jackson and the foreman was John Smith. The jail was built of native sandstone quarried from the Kenneth Hubbard farm, not far from the jail itself. This site was also used to extract stone for the courthouse. Eatherly, Treadwell, and Thomas served as the stonemasons for both the jail and the courthouse.

The Old Searcy County Courthouse reflects the Romanesque Revival style, popular during the last two decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Popularized by Boston architect Henry Hobson Richardson, Romanesque Revival influence appeared in some commercial buildings as early as the mid-nineteenth century, but did not become more broadly used until the 1870s. While examples of this style appear throughout the country, it is somewhat uncommon since large-scale masonry construction was often very expensive. Classic Romanesque structures are characterized by round-topped arches, rough-faced masonry construction, round towers topped with conical roofs, parapeted gables, and an asymmetrical façade. The Old Searcy County Jail represents a more vernacular form of this style, with rough-hewn native stone walls, a round-topped, arched louvered vent, and a parapeted gable. It has undergone little modification.

The men who worked on the courthouse were very active in their community. Both B.F. Henley and Jim Eatherly fought in the Civil War and Henley became particularly active in politics. George Jackson was known for his work constructing Marshall's first school, a structure of large hand-hewn logs with peg legs built in 1866. The building sat on the west side of the present Highway 27 and just North of the old Roller Mill Spring. Jackson was also instrumental in organizing Marshall's First Baptist Church not long after the Civil War, in an old log school building on the west side of Spring Street near the Marshall Cemetery.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

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The jail was used continuously until 1976, when the Retired Teachers of Searcy County leased the property from the county for a period of 50 years. For a brief time the organization housed a museum in the building, but it has not been used for several years.

### Statement of Significance

Located on State Highway 27 (Center Street) in Marshall, Arkansas, the Old Searcy County Jail is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under Criterion A for its association with the establishment of law enforcement in Searcy County. It is also being nominated under Criterion C as a good example of architecture with Romanesque Revival influence. The building was built in 1902 and served as the Searcy County Jail until 1976. The Searcy County Historical Society has housed a museum in the structure in the past, but it is not currently being utilized.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

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### Bibliography

Baker, William D. *History and Architectural Heritage of Searcy County*. Little Rock: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 1993.

Brandes, Howard R. *Survey of the Searcy County Museum*. University Museum, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

Harrell, Mary Frances. *History and Folklore of Searcy County, Arkansas*. 1977.

James J. Johnston, local historian and author. Interview by Cassie Elliott.

*Marshall Mountain Wave*. Various issues 1901-1902

McInturff, Orville. *Searcy County, My Dear: A History of Searcy County*. Marshall, Ark.: Marshall Mountain Wave, 1963.

Niagle Ratchford, former Searcy County Assessor. Interview by Cassie Elliott.

Pat Halsted, local historian and librarian for the Searcy County library. Interview by Cassie Elliot.

Searcy County Assessor's Records

Searcy County Ordinance 94-04

Searcy County Retired Teachers Association. *History of Searcy County*. 1987.

Old Searcy County Jail  
Name of Property

Searcy County, AR  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u> Zone	<u>533205</u> Easting	<u>3974051</u> Northing	3	<u>                    </u> Zone	<u>                    </u> Easting	<u>                    </u> Northing
2	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	4	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>

See continuation sheet

#### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

#### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cassie Elliott; edited by Clint Pumphrey  
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 01/24/2010  
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center St. telephone 501-324-9789  
city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Searcy County c/o Judge Johnny Hinchey  
street & number P.O. Box 1370 telephone 870.448.3554  
city or town Marshall state AR zip code 72650

**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 listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 1

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## **Verbal Boundary Description**

Lot 1 Block 10 Original Town of Marshall.

## **Boundary Justification**

The boundary contains the land that is historically associated with the Old Searcy County Jail.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Old Searcy County Jail  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Searcy

DATE RECEIVED: 4/16/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/12/10  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/27/10 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/31/10  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10000290

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 5-28-10 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

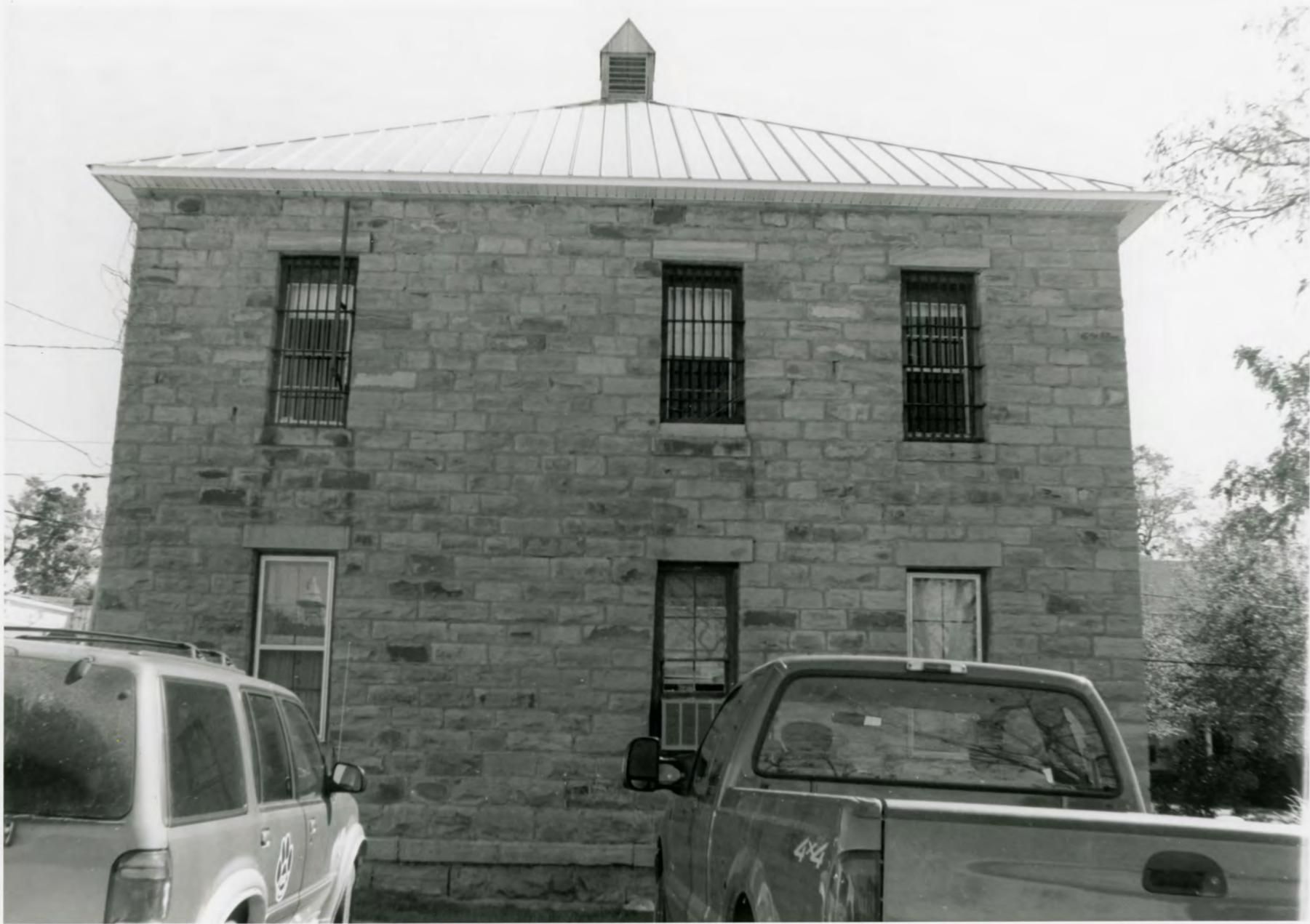
TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

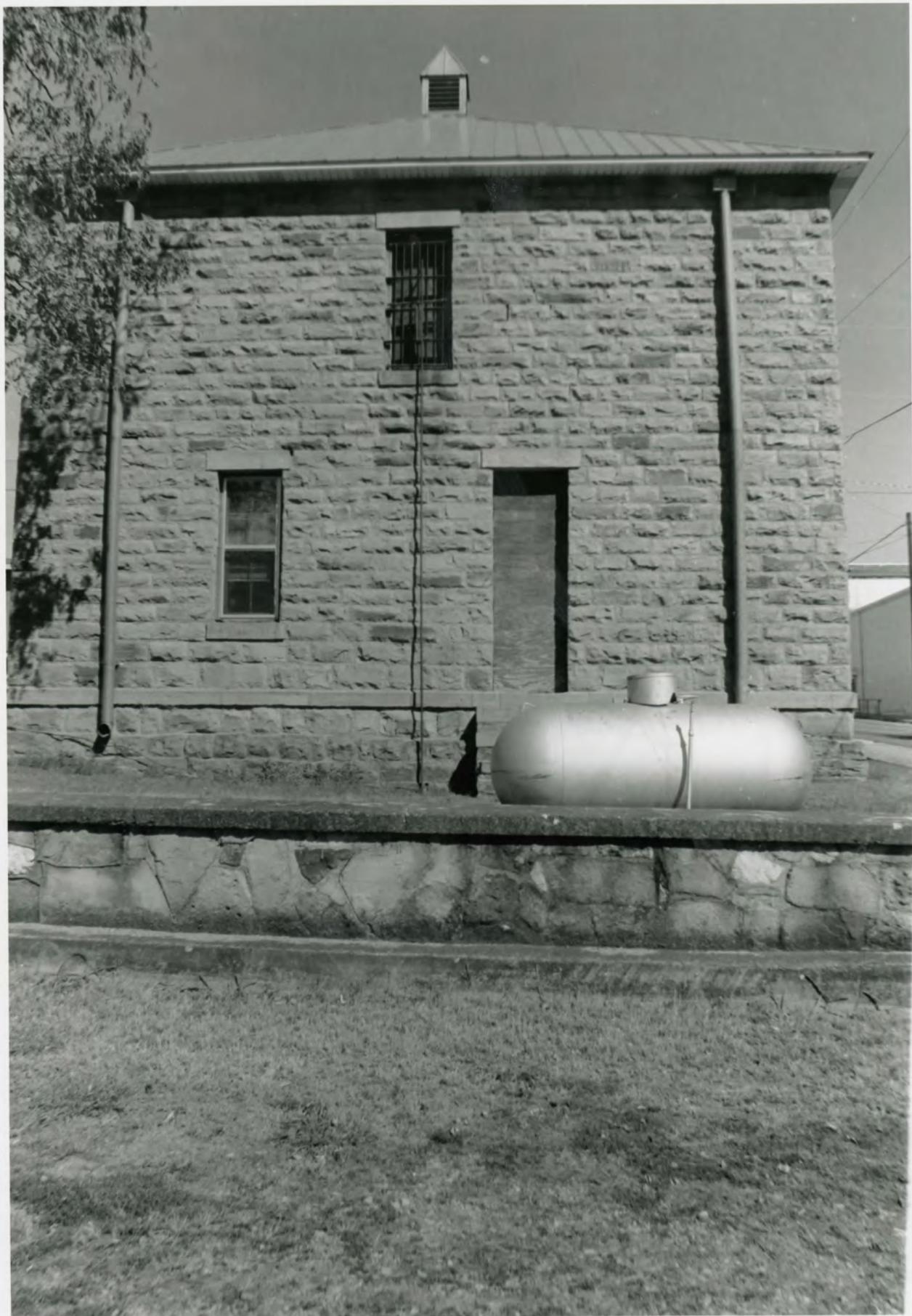
If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



- 1) Old Searcy County Jail
- 2) Searcy County, Arkansas
- 3) Ralph Wilcox
- 4) October 5, 2004
- 5) Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
- 6) North Elevation
- 7) #1



- 1) Old Seery County Jail
- 2) Seery County, Arkansas
- 3) Ralph Wilcox
- 4) October 5, 2004
- 5) Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
- 6) West Elevation
- 7) #2



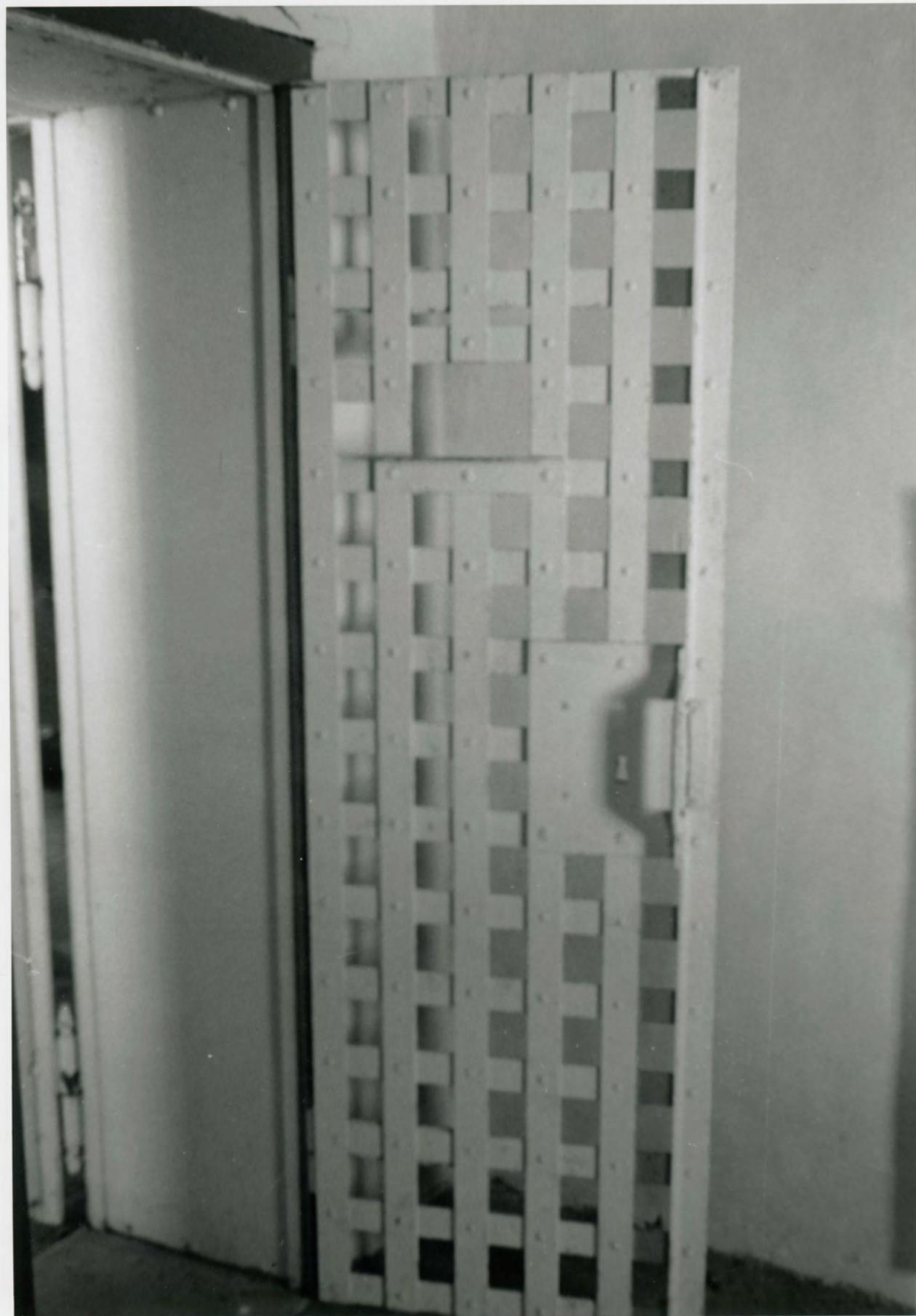
- 1) Old Searcy County Jail
- 2) Searcy County, Arkansas
- 3) Ralph Wilcox
- 4) October 5, 2004
- 5) Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
- 6) South Elevation
- 7) #3



- 1) Old Searcy County Jail
- 2) Searcy County, Arkansas
- 3) Ralph Wilcox
- 4) October 5, 2004
- 5) Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
- 6) East Elevation
- 7) #4



- 1) Old Searcy County Jail
- 2) Searcy County, Arkansas
- 3) Ralph Wilcox
- 4) October 5, 2004
- 5) Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
- 6) Interior, second floor, bunk bed
- 7) #5



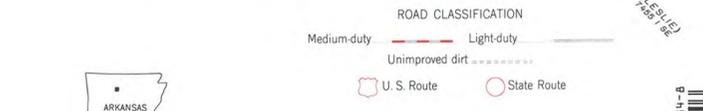
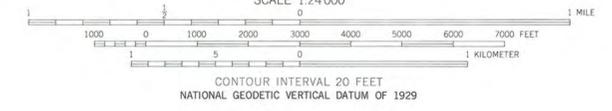
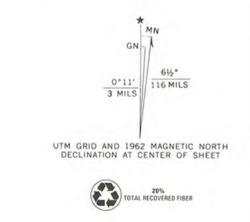
- 1) Old Searcy County Jail
- 2) Searcy County, Arkansas
- 3) Ralph Wilcox
- 4) October 5, 2004
- 5) Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
- 6) Interior, second floor, detail of cell door
- 7) #6



- 1) Old Searcy County Jail
- 2) Searcy County, Arkansas
- 3) Ralph Wilcox
- 4) October 5, 2004
- 5) Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
- 6) Interior, second floor, inside of cell
- 7) #7



Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1959. Field checked 1962  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, north zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 15, shown in blue  
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983  
move the projection lines 5 meters south and  
15 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of  
the National or State reservations shown on this map  
Map photoinspected 1980  
No major culture or drainage changes observed



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

MARSHALL, ARK.  
N3552.5—W9237.5/7.5  
1962  
PHOTOINSPECTED 1980  
AMS 7455 1 NW—SERIES V884

OLD SEARCY  
COUNTY JAIL  
Marshall, Searcy County, AR  
UTM Reference:  
15J33205/3974051





# The Department of Arkansas Heritage

Mike Beebe  
Governor

Cathie Matthews  
Director

Arkansas Arts Council

\*

Arkansas Natural Heritage  
Commission

\*

Delta Cultural Center

\*

Historic Arkansas Museum

\*

Mosaic Templars  
Cultural Center

\*

Old State House Museum



## Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

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e-mail:

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website:

[www.arkansaspreservation.com](http://www.arkansaspreservation.com)

An Equal Opportunity Employer



RECEIVED 2280

APR 16 2010

NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

April 7, 2010

Ms. Carol Shull  
Chief of Registration  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
8th Floor  
1201 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Old Searcy County Jail – Marshall, Searcy County, Arkansas

Dear Ms. Shull:

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. 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 Ralph S. Wilcox of my staff at (501) 324-9787. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews  
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:crp

Enclosure