

Listed in the NR - 9-1-83

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Beck
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National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received
date entered

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

BE0397

1. Name

historic Benton County National Bank

and or common Bentonville City Hall

2. Location

street & number ¹¹⁵ 123 West Central N/A not for publication

city, town Benton City N/A vicinity of

state Arkansas code 05 county Benton code 007

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input 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 Bentonville City

street & number 123 West Central

city, town Bentonville N/A vicinity of state Arkansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Benton County Court House

street & number Courtsquare

city, town Bentonville state Arkansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes ___ no

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY

Built in 1906, the Benton County National Bank was designed by Albert Oscar Clark, a prominent Bentonville architect. Based on the Roman temple form, arches are the reoccurring design element of the building. Both the interior and exterior are beautifully detailed, the latter being highlighted by a domed skylight and a colorfully tiled floor.

ELABORATION

The Benton County National Bank, a rectangular one story building with an imposing Roman temple front, was designed by Albert Oscar Clark in 1906. Located on the south side of Central Street near the downtown square of Bentonville, the building's west elevation is a party wall, as the bank is at the corner of a block of storefronts.

The building has three symmetrical elevations and a flat roof, in the center of which is a domed skylight. A tall parapet with stone coping, which is stepped on the front facade, disguises the dome. The Roman temple front of the Benton County National Bank is supported by four polished marble columns with modified Corinthian stone capitals with moulded bases resting upon stone plinths. Directly behind the two end columns are square pilasters with identical detailing. The building is set upon a podium, with steps between the stone column bases on the front, and rusticated stone on the side and rear elevations. The columns support a plain entablature above which is a bracketed projecting cornice. Four of the brackets are larger than the rest and are adorned with acanthus leaves. The tympanum is embellished with a pattern carved in relief. The front facade is faced with dressed stone, while the remaining elevations are brick. The central entrance consists of double doors with glass windows, and a fixed, single paned arched window above. Two windows, one on each side of the doorway, duplicate the fenestration of the entrance. The fixed portion of each is identical to that above the door, and the bottom portion of both windows are divided by mullions into three vertical sections. A flat-roofed rectangular office, equal in width but approximately half the height of the temple form extends from the rear of the building. The rear elevation of the office has three double-hung windows, one of which is smaller than the others, a door with a transom and three small basement windows, all with segmental brick relieving arches. The full height portion of the rear elevation, which rises above the roof of the office, has two arched fenestrations like those on the front facade. The side wall of the office joins that of the main portion of the building. Because of the rear office the east elevation (side) is of two heights. The portion corresponding with the office has two double-hung windows with brick relieving arches. The other portion of the east elevation that is equal

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Continuation sheet

Item number 7

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in height with the front facade, has five arched windows, equally spaced side by side, of the same type, size, and height as those on the front of the bank. A continuous horizontal stone band intersects with the five windows at their midpoint. The arched surround of the window is rusticated brick and a narrow projecting brick band follows the line of the stone band and window surrounds. A continuous stone band that marks the intersection of the roof slope and parapet runs the entire length of the side elevation.

Highlighting the finely detailed interior is a domed circular skylight. Though the walls and ceilings are plaster, wood trim was used extensively to delineate the interior's many arches. Wood arches, coinciding with the windows of the east and rear elevations adorn the rear end partition and west wall. All woodwork is original, as is the glazed brick fireplace of Craftsman influence. A highly decorative floor of locally produced tile is laid with a colorful starburst design beneath the skylight. The majority of the floor is laid in white tile with regular spaced pattern and decorative borders. Positioned between the arches on both side walls are wood pilasters with Ionic capitals. On either end of the skylight, the walls are arched and the ceiling vaulted. The rear office, which is more simply detailed, is highlighted by a green tile fireplace.

Alterations to the building include the addition of a partition at the rear end of the lobby, the details of which echo those of the rear wall. Behind the partition are restrooms and an office. The Benton County National Bank Building now serves as the city's courtroom.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics:government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1906 Builder/Architect Albert Oscar Clark

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

SUMMARY

The Benton County National Bank building was constructed in 1906 to house one of the early banking institutions of Bentonville. It is an outstanding design of Albert Oscar Clark, an architect with offices in nearby Rogers. Clark moved to northwest Arkansas in 1904 after having successfully practiced his craft in St. Louis, Missouri. Many of Clark's finest designs are in the classical mode and include three National Register properties in Benton County (Applegate Drugstore, Bank of Rogers and the Massey Hotel). The original construction cost of the Benton County National Bank was 5,700 dollars. The bank served a community which in 1906 was strongly agrarian. Northwest Arkansas during the later portion of the 19th century and the first decades of the 20th century was a heavy apple producer. Throughout Benton County were storage and canning facilities for apples and the other fruits which did so well in the area. Evaporators and cider plants were in abundance as well. It was this large fruit production industry and those that worked in it that served as the Benton County National Bank's clientele. In July of 1930, the First National Bank of Bentonville consolidated with the Benton County National Bank. However, by December of that same year the bank had closed its doors, fearing a run by depositors. In 1934, the building was sold to the city of Bentonville and has since served as office space. Restoration work undertaken in 1981 and 1982, provides an ideal space to house the municipal court.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Cahoon, M. O., "Albert O. Clark, Architect," (a report for Preservation & Restoration class), Univ. of Ark., 1980.

Hoback, Richard. Personal interview conducted April 27, 1982.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Bentonville South, Ark.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 15 391500 4025690
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Parts of Lot 119 & 120; Original Town

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ryoichi Takahashi (ed. by the staff of the AHPP)

organization Community Planning, U. of Ark. date July 28, 1983

street & number 724 Maple telephone 575-5659

city or town Fayetteville state Arkansas

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature]

title SHPO date 7-29-83

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

7156 IV NE
(HIWASSE)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

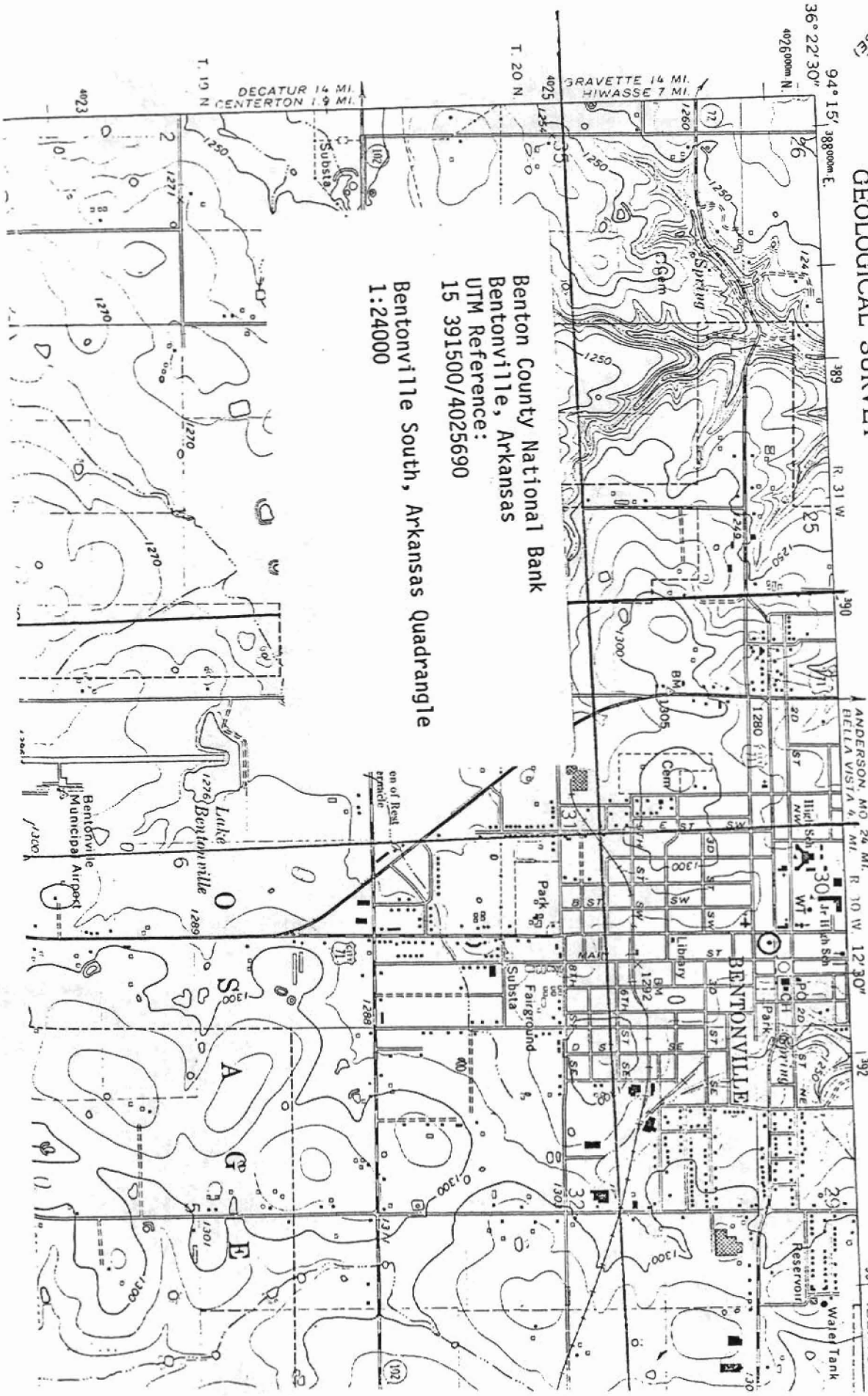
STATE OF
GEOLOGICAL
LITTLE

36° 22' 30"
4076000m N

94° 15' 388000m E

ANDERSON, MO 24 MI. R. 10 W. 12' 30"
BELLA VISTA 4 MI.

393 (BENTONVILLE)
7156



Benton County National Bank
Bentonville, Arkansas
UTM Reference:
15 391500/4025690
Bentonville South, Arkansas Quadrangle
1:24000

DECATUR 14 MI.
CENTERTON 19 MI.

GRAVETTE 14 MI.
HIWASSE 7 MI.

T. 20 N

4023

Lake Bentonville
Bentonville Municipal Airport

BENTONVILLE

