

NR 7-21-76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Boone County Courthouse

800001

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Harrison

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

third

STATE

Arkansas

VICINITY OF

CODE

05

COUNTY

Boone

CODE

009

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Boone County (Clifford Tomlinson, County Judge)

STREET & NUMBER

Boone County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Harrison

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Circuit Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Boone County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Harrison

STATE

Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

Erected in 1909, the Boone County Courthouse is a two-storey structure of brick construction. Contractors for the building were A. M. Byrnes and C. H. McCauley. Architect Charles L. Thompson of Little Rock designed the courthouse. Thompson is credited with designing many large, impressive structures throughout Arkansas. His style usually centered around classic designs.

Rectangular in plan, the Boone County Courthouse represents the Georgian Revival style of architecture. Two chimneys rise from the ridge line of the high hip roof. A dentiled cornice extends around the entire building. Horizontal brick bands also mark the frieze line. Another unifying feature of the Boone County Courthouse are bands of cast stone which extend around the building at both the first and second storey lines. Four horizontal bands of brick surround the building at the basement level.

Windows are grouped in pairs with lugsills and lintels of cast stone. The windows are double-hung, multi-lite. First-storey windows are marked by simple lugsills and topped by bricked arches with keystones. Second-storey windows are topped by flat arches with alternating radiating voussoirs. Small double-hung, multi-lite windows are located at the basement level.

The hip roof is marked by a center gable on the facade and the identical south elevation. On both the north and the south elevations the projecting center bay is marked by four evenly spaced pilasters with cast stone capitals and bases. A dentiled pediment marks the gable. Located in the gable end of the pediment is a decorative circular window with leaded glass. The entry features wooden double doors with beveled glass panes and a square decorative transom. The doors are framed by cast stone and topped by a segmental-arch pediment supported by scroll brackets.

The east and west elevations are marked by a center projections containing first-floor double doors and a double window at the second-storey level. The double doors have multi-lite square transom. The entry is framed by cast stone topped by an entablature supported by scroll brackets. A dentiled pediment extends above the roof line.

The interior is dominated by bisecting central halls on the first floor. The octagonal-shaped point of bisection features arched openings flanked by Doric pilasters and columns. Colorful patterned ceramic tile floors with marble baseboards are a notable feature of the interior. Marble dog-leg stairs with decorative iron railings are located at the ends of the hall running east to west.

Alterations include adaptation of office space for modern usage. Recently an interior restoration has been started, including refinishing the oak woodwork to its original condition and thorough cleaning of the ceramic tile floors.

This architecturally interesting structure, designed by one of Arkansas' leading architects, is a good example of Georgian Revival style. In excellent condition, the Boone County Courthouse rests on its original site in the center of scenic Harrison.

# SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD

- PREHISTORIC
- 1400-1499
- 1500-1599
- 1600-1699
- 1700-1799
- 1800-1899
- 1900

- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
- ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
- AGRICULTURE
- ARCHITECTURE
- ART
- COMMERCE
- COMMUNICATIONS

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

- COMMUNITY PLANNING
- CONSERVATION
- ECONOMICS
- EDUCATION
- ENGINEERING
- EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
- INDUSTRY
- INVENTION

- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- LAW
- LITERATURE
- MILITARY
- MUSIC
- PHILOSOPHY
- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

- RELIGION
- SCIENCE
- SCULPTURE
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
- THEATER
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES 1909

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Charles L. Thompson

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The largest number of architecturally significant public buildings in Arkansas are the courthouses scattered over the state's seventy-five counties. A structural symbol of American government, the county courthouse serves as the center of local political activity. Often the largest and most costly building in the county, the courthouse is almost always a source of pride to the citizens who financed and make use of its facilities.

Boone County was created April 9, 1869, from territory taken from Carroll and Madison Counties. In many ways, Boone County is one of the most interesting and beautiful of the Ozark counties. Its hills are well covered with timber and the river valleys are broad.

After the formation of Boone County in 1869, Bellefonte served as the temporary county seat. In August and September of 1873, a crisis arose between citizens of Bellefonte and Harrison over the location of a permanent county seat. The feeling between the two towns was so bitter that it came close to bloodshed. Harrison was chosen as the new county seat by a slim margin of eighteen votes. The citizens of Harrison began a campaign to secure a railroad. Convinced of the financial possibilities of the area in minerals, the Missouri and North Arkansas Railway built tracks across the county. The citizens of Harrison met demands of the railroad and gave right-of-way and paid \$50,000 to secure the railroad through the town.

The strong community pride continued, and in 1909 it was decided to build a new county courthouse to replace the 1873 frame structure. Arkansas' most prominent architect, Charles L. Thompson, was hired to design the building. The Boone County Courthouse is a two-storey brick structure. Rectangular in plan, the Boone County Courthouse represents the Georgian Revival style of architecture. A dentiled cornice extends around the entire building. Bands of brick extend around the courthouse at the frieze line. Cast-stone bands mark the first and second storey lines while four brick bands extend around the building at the basement level. Center gables project from the hip roof on the facade and identical south elevation. Windows in the building utilize decorative lintels.

The interior of the Boone County Courthouse is exceptionally noteworthy. Bisecting central halls dominate the first floor. Located at the point these halls bisect is a octagonal shaped area. Arched openings in the area are flanked by oak pilasters and columns. Ceramic tile floors with marble baseboards are another outstanding feature of the interior.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE one

Resting on the courthouse square, the Boone County Courthouse is one of the most architecturally impressive courthouses in the state. As the center of government in Boone County, the building is historically significant in the area of politics and government.

# MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

A Survey of Arkansas Courthouses. Compiled by the National Security of Colonial Dames of America in the State of Arkansas. Mrs. W. G. McDonald, Chairperson, Historical Activities Committee. Arkansas Room, Little Rock Public Library. Harrison Daily Times, Centennial Section, July, 1936.

Logan, Roger V., Jr., Ed. Mountain Heritage: Some Glimpses Into Boone County's Past After One-Hundred Years. Harrison: Times Publishing Company, 1969.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	15	490290	4009300	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE

Sandra Taylor, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

3-9-76

STREET & NUMBER

300 West Markham

TELEPHONE

(501) 371-1639

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

## 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 Anne Bartley

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

3-9-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE one

Tomlinson, Clifford D. (Boone County Judge) Personal interview at the Boone C  
Courthouse, Harrison, Arkansas, January 30, 1976.  
Works Project Administration. Boone County, c. 1940, Archives, Arkansas Hist  
Commission.