

5-18-4060-63

NR 12-12-76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

RECEIVED NR LISTED 12-12-76
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Boone County Jail BO 0018

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Central Avenue & Willow Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Harrison

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Third

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

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
- MUSEUM (planned use)
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER: not if present

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Boone County (Clifford Tomlinson, County Judge)

STREET & NUMBER

Boone County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Harrison

STATE

Arkansas

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerks' 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

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

The Boone County Jail is a two-storey red brick structure with a red tile roof. Constructed about 1914, the jail is reported to have been designed by the prominent Arkansas architect, Charles L. Thompson. The nearby Boone County Courthouse, also of red brick with a tile roof, was designed by Thompson in 1909.

Rectangular in form, the jail has a one-storey porch projecting over the south entry and a bay window on the west elevation. The cast-stone water table and belt course are painted white, as are the cornices and door and window trim. Just below the wooden modillioned cornice is a brick soldier course. Breaking this continuous cornice on the south facade is a shaped gablet rising flush with the wall surface. Centered in the gablet is a circular, louvered opening.

Fenestration is symmetrical on all facades except the east, with three bays on the south, a single bay on the north (rear) and five bays on the west. The four bays on the east elevation align vertically. With one exception all windows have cast-stone lintels and continuous sills. The first-storey window on the center of the east elevation is smaller than the other windows and has a lugsill of cast stone. **Basement windows**, located on the northeast and northwest corners, and **second-storey windows** are covered with a grid of flat bars of steel.

Two square rusticated brick piers, with every fourth row of brick recessed, are set at each front corner of the half-wall surrounding the front porch. At the rear corners of the porch are similar engaged piers. Like the main roof and the west bay-window roof, the porch is covered with a hip roof of red tile. The primary entry is set in the middle bay of this three-bay-wide facade. Secondary entries are located on the west and north elevations.

The first floor of the jail has been used as living quarters for the jailer and his family, and has been altered and redecorated over the years according to the needs and tastes of the various occupants. **Below the north third of the living quarters is an earthen-floored basement.**

Along the north wall a metal stairway rises to the second floor where the original jail cells are still located. **On the northeast quarter of the second storey are two cells used for female prisoners.** Occupying the south half of the second storey is the cell block containing four separate cells. Like the window bars, the cell walls are of flattened steel bars set in solid steel walls. A walkway surrounds the entire cell block.

The Boone County Jail rests on its original site within a block of the county courthouse. Though in need of minor repairs, the building remains structurally sound and in good condition.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1500-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed about 1914, the Boone County Jail is an architecturally significant public building in the north Arkansas community of Harrison. The jail is also important historically for its long association with law enforcement in the area.

According to local officials, the jail was designed by Charles L. Thompson, the prominent Arkansas architect who designed the Boone County Courthouse in 1909. The jail and courthouse are of similar style and are constructed with the same type of materials. Like the courthouse, the jail is reminiscent of other Thompson buildings in Arkansas.

The two-storey, red brick jail has a low-hip roof covered with red tiles. Penetration is painted white, as are the cornices and belt courses. Flat bars of steel, set in a grid pattern, cover the second-storey windows. The original steel cells, now painted in a metallic silver color, remain in place on the second floor of the building.

Reportedly, the present jail rests on the same site as an earlier jail constructed in 1886. After the first jail burned the site lay vacant for a time before the present jail was constructed. During this vacant period, a local historian reports that Boone County's last legal execution took place there. On August 11, 1913, convicted murderer Odus Davidson was hung on an enclosed scaffold constructed on the jail site.

changed
Besides its long association with law enforcement, the jail site is also important for its proximity to Stifler Spring, located just south of the jail site. In the mid-nineteenth century, even before Harrison was surveyed in 1869 by the civil engineer for whom it was named, there was a small settlement in the area using Stifler Spring as its water supply.

In over sixty years of use the Boone County Jail has housed a number of law-breakers. The jail's most infamous occupant was Henry Starr, who died in the jail on February 22, 1921. Born in Indian Territory in 1873 Starr was first arrested and fined for a minor offence in 1891. Two years later he robbed a Bentonville, Arkansas, bank, but was afterwards apprehended, tried by Judge Isaac Parker in Fort Smith, Arkansas, and convicted. Though originally sentenced to death, the Supreme Court overturned the verdict. In a new trial, Starr pled guilty to a lesser charge, and was sentenced to prison; however, his good conduct in prison led to a parole long before his sentence was completed.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Arkansas Gazette. February 19-25, 1921.
 Baxter Bulletin (Mountain Home, Arkansas). February 25, 1920 (date mis-printed).
 Hudspeth, Burnelle. Personal interview, July 15, 1976.
 _____ . Personal collection relating to Boone County Jail (copies on file with Arkansas Historic Preservation Program).
 McKennan, C.H. Iron Man. Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Company, 1967.
 Rea, Ralph B. Boone County & Its People. Van Buren, Ark.: Press-Argus, 1955.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	4,9,0	2,7,0	4,0	0,9	1,7,0	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
 Dianna Kirk, Historian and Wilson Stiles, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION
 Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

STREET & NUMBER
 300 West Markham

CITY OR TOWN
 Little Rock

DATE
 9-14-76

TELEPHONE
 501-371-1639

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 9-14-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: _____ DATE _____

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER _____ DATE _____

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM



THE OLD STATE HOUSE" 300 WEST HARRISON

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
TELEPHONE - 501 371-1

PROPERTY OWNER'S APPROVAL

I, Judge Clifford Tomlinson, am the legal guardian
owner of the Boone County Jail
located at Harrison, Arkansas

I hereby acknowledge that I have been fully informed and understand the significance of having the aforementioned property placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

I hereby approve the inclusion of the aforementioned property on the National Register of Historic Places.

Boone Co
Owner County Judge Clifford Tomlinson
7-16-76
Date