

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NR LISTED
SEP 11 1998
AHPP

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Craighead County Courthouse

Other Name/Site Number: CG0043

2. Location

Street & Number: 511 Main Street

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Jonesboro

Vicinity: N/A

State: AR County: Craighead County Code: AR031 Zip Code: 72401

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-Local

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u> + </u>	<u> </u>	Buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Structures
<u> 1 </u>	<u> </u>	Objects
<u> 2 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Craighead County Courthouse
Name of Property

Craighead County, Arkansas
County and State

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Signature of certifying official Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria

William A. Slater _____ 5-29-98
Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- _____ entered in the National Register _____
- _____ determined eligible for the National Register _____
- _____ determined not eligible for the National Register _____
- _____ removed from the National Register _____
- _____ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper Date
Of action

Craighead County Courthouse
Name of Property

Craighead County, Arkansas
County and State

6. Function or Use

Historic:	<u>Government</u>	Sub:	<u>Courthouse</u>
	_____		_____
Current :	<u>Government</u>	Sub:	<u>Courthouse</u>
	_____		_____
	_____		_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification:
Art Deco

Materials:	<u>foundation Cast Concrete</u>	roof	<u>Tar</u>
	walls <u>Brick</u>	other	_____

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

Summary

The Craighead County Courthouse, Western District, was built in 1934 at Main and Washington Streets in Jonesboro. The two-story Art Deco government building is constructed of red brick with limestone coping, belt courses and decorative entrances with fluted pilasters and engraved pediments. Several markers stand on the courthouse lawn including a World War I doughboy monument and a plaque commemorating Hattie Caraway, who was the first woman in America elected to a U.S. Senate seat, and the first female chairman of a Senate committee. The present courthouse is the fifth for Craighead County's western district as three previous buildings were destroyed by fire and a fourth brick building was razed in 1933. Jonesboro expanded their courthouse operations in 1995 with an annex across Union street connected by a brick skywalk. The expansion is constructed of red brick and embellished with limestone details and double-hung windows that simulate those of the 1934 building. The courthouse is in excellent condition and all additions have been sensitively applied.

Elaboration

The Craighead County Courthouse in Jonesboro was constructed in 1934 at Main and Washington Streets. The two-story Art Deco government building is constructed of red brick with limestone coping, belt courses and decorative entrances with fluted pilasters and engraved pediments. The building's elevations follow an irregular line typical of the Art Deco style with setbacks and varying roof levels.

Craighead County Courthouse
Name of Property

Craighead County, Arkansas
County and State

The eastern, or front elevation reveals a complicated line of setbacks, truncated towers and pilaster masses. A one-story wing topped with limestone coping at the southeast corner of the courthouse is fenestrated by one three-over-three window with a limestone sill flanked by two bricked-in window openings. A single basement window recessed into a small dry moat is partially visible above ground. The basement window and the first-floor window are covered with decorative metal grills. The center section of the courthouse is set back a few feet from the side wings. The northern side wall of the wing contains a bricked-in window. This wall leads to a two-story truncated tower lit on the first and second story with two narrow one-over-one windows, each with a small square transom. The windows are separated by a fluted limestone panel which continues to the top of the tower, culminating in a wide limestone cap centered with a small decorative carving. Two windows on the first story lead to a dominating limestone entrance centered in the facade. A square pediment engraved with "CRAIGHEAD/COUNTY/COURTHOUSE" is supported by two fluted pilaster masses on either side of the modern metal and glass doors. An open stoop reached by four concrete steps has been split in half by the addition of a wheelchair ramp leading from the front door. Two windows to the right of the door lead to a second truncated tower and northeastern one-story wing that are identical to those found on the southeast corner. A cornerstone noting the 1934 construction date of the courthouse is placed at the northeast end of the wing. A thin band of limestone separates the first and second stories in the center of the facade. Above the band is a line of five double four-over-four windows topped with six-light transoms placed between four pilaster masses below the limestone coping. Between each pilaster mass are two thin limestone bands centered with a fluted limestone panel carved with a floral pattern at roof level. This design continues around the second-story of the building. The limestone bands at the corners of the courthouse are embellished with wing-pattern details. Two upper-story extensions with limestone coping behind the parapet of the north and south first-story wings hold three windows. The windows at the northeast appear to have been removed and boarded over.

The one-story wing of the east elevation continues around the north facade of the building with the same fenestration. A third bricked-in opening leads to the centered entrance. The same surround as the eastern entrance is seen to the north but on a smaller scale. A window placed low in the facade opens to the right of the door. A second one-story wing to the northwest contains three boarded up windows. The second-story features three windows beside a truncated tower that terminates behind the parapet of the northeast wing. This tower is fenestrated with one narrow window with transom and limestone ornamentation echoing the eastern towers. A tall brick chimney rises above the second-story roof from the exterior wall next to a second truncated tower and three windows on the upper-story northwest wing.

The rear, or western facade begins its fenestration with three windows, with two boarded-over on the northwest corner of the first floor. A two-story elevator shaft was added to this corner in 1992. The west entrance is located down a slope in a centered recess. The door construction mirrors the design seen on the other entrances but its pediment is carved with "PUBLIC/REST-ROOMS." Two windows flank the wooden eight-light double doors. A one-story wing with three windows on the basement and first floor levels extends from the southwest corner of the building. The second-story duplicates the plan of the northern facade with the exception of a brick skywalk leading from the

central upper-story. The skywalk, constructed in 1995, leads across Union Street to a four-story courthouse annex. The annex, completed in 1995 is of brick construction and both it and the skywalk contain double-hung windows matching the style of the windows on the main courthouse. Coping design on the elevator shaft and the extension imitate the general design seen on the courthouse, as does the door surround on the extension.

The southern facade mirrors the north with the exception of five windows above the entrance on the second-story rather than three. There are several monuments and markers scattered across the courthouse lawn. A metal marker at the southeast corner of the lawn commemorates the organization of the county in 1859. Beside the central sidewalk to the east is a metal marker dedicated to Hattie Caraway, the first elected female U.S. Senator, and first female to preside over the Senate and first female chairman of the Senate. A flame of freedom dedicated in 1969 in commemoration of the Battle of Jonesboro, fought on the courthouse square in 1862, is located to the northeast as is a metal marker detailing the same battle. At the northwest corner stands a marble monument memorializing Spanish war veterans. A cornerstone from the 1886 courthouse is housed in the basement. On the corner of Main and Washington is a 1920 doughboy monument considered contributing to the nomination. The Jonesboro Monument to World War Veterans, also known as "American Doughboy," is located on the northeast corner of the lawn of the courthouse. It is a typical "doughboy" sculpture showing a male figure in World War I battle dress with a helmet. He is in mid-stride with his proper right hand extended and raised above his head holding a bayonet. His proper left hand is at his side holding a rifle parallel to the ground. The work has been painted an olive drab. The base, made of granite, was made in Memphis by Robert Morris. The bronze sculpture was cast at the American Art Foundry in Chicago.

The north face of the base contains the inscription "TO THE 1,385 SONS OF/ CRAIGHEAD COUNTY, WHO/ DURING THE WORLD WAR/ SERVED THEIR COUNTRY/ON LAND AND SEA,/AND WELL MAINTAINED/ITS HIGHEST IDEALS/AND TRADITIONS,/THIS MONUMENT IS/ ERECTED BY/THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS/AS A TESTIMONIAL OF/GRATITUDE AND AFFECTION."

On the east base is the inscription "OUR/SOLIDER SAILOR/DEAD" followed by a list of casualties.

The west base also reads "OUR SOLDIER SAILOR DEAD" followed by a list of casualties.

The coat of paint is deteriorating and cracking. There is considerable metal staining from runoff, and bird guano is also a problem. The bayonet was originally at the end of the rifle, but was welded to the upraised hand by the American Legion to end a succession of thefts from its original location. The monument is county property, but maintenance is shared with the American Legion.

Decoration on the interior of the courthouse is simple but its unique crown molding is impressive. The hallways are lined with a repeating crown molding pattern three feet wide. The walls have a marble wainscoting that rises to the top of the fluted marble door casings which contain eight-light wooden doors. Floors are glossy terra cotta tile.

Craighead County Courthouse
Name of Property

Craighead County, Arkansas
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: _____ Local _____

Applicable National Register Criteria: _____ C _____

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): _____ N/A _____

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1934

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Elmer A. Stuck

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and period of significance noted above:

Summary

The Craighead County Courthouse, Western District, situated on the courthouse square in Jonesboro, is the fifth building on the site dedicated to the governing of the county. The building is a relatively intact example of Art Deco construction with additions applied in 1992 and 1995. The modern additions have applied ornamentation that reflects the 1934 design on the main courthouse building. The courthouse is being nominated to the National Register with statewide significance under Criterion C for its Art Deco styling. Also considered contributing is the American Doughboy monument on the northeast corner of the courthouse lawn.

Historical Background

The town of Jonesboro and the county of Craighead in northeastern Arkansas were created in 1859. For a year there was no courthouse, but the State Legislature authorized the organization of a temporary county government designating the house of William Puryear the temporary county seat. Court was

held in the yard of Mr. Puryear's homestead. The jury retired to a log a few feet away from the proceedings to make their deliberations.

The location of the town square was decided upon by four men chosen by County Judge Isham Fuller. The men selected the highest point they came to in the proposed town site of Jonesboro and a two-story frame courthouse was constructed about 1862. The designation of this site for the courthouse was not without controversy as it was one of the best deer crossings in the area. Other misgivings voiced by local hunters were that it would mean the loss of excellent duck, turkey and bear feeding grounds. The development forged ahead despite the protestations of the area hunters. This courthouse survived until 1869 when it was burned destroying all county records. Angry townspeople blamed the state militia quartered at the courthouse the night before. The square was allowed to revert to a natural state and a second courthouse was situated in a store west of the square. Around 1876 the county offices burned a second time destroying all records. The cause of the fire was determined to be arson. The third courthouse was again placed in the lot west of the square and met the same fate when a fire swept through the block in 1885. This inspired the citizens to construct a building with fireproof storage vaults on the courthouse square in 1886. The two-story building featuring a four-story clock tower entry survived a devastating fire in 1889 that destroyed several surrounding Main Street businesses, only to be razed in 1933 for the construction of the current courthouse in 1934.

Several monuments are situated on the current courthouse lawn. Predating the 1934 structure is a monument to World War I veterans at the northeast corner of Washington and Main Streets. Jonesboro's monument to World War I Veterans was unveiled on Memorial Day, May 30, 1920. It was the first World War I monument built in the south and one of the first in America. It was sponsored at a cost of several thousand dollars by the citizens of Craighead County, who bought the statue in Chicago in 1919 and commissioned Robert Morris of Memphis to construct the base. It was dedicated as part of a ceremony that included a large parade, bands, and World War I veterans. The Honorable J.C. Shaw was the featured speaker.

The Flame of Freedom monument also to the northeast of the courthouse commemorates the date of the 1862 Battle of Jonesboro. The 1862 Craighead County Courthouse was the scene of the county's only Civil War battle. The first Wisconsin Calvary regiment captured 24 Confederate soldiers, 30 horses, and three wagons in an August 1, 1862 attack near Jonesboro, then took their prisoners into town. The Wisconsin troopers occupied the courthouse that evening, and held their prisoners within the building. The next morning, Confederates of Company L, 30th Arkansas Infantry attacked the Union troops, driving them from the town. Eight Yankees and one Confederate were killed in the short battle. Two Union soldiers were wounded and several were captured.

Architectural Significance

The current Craighead County Courthouse, Western District is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance to the National Register. It is distinguished for its place as the only notable example of Art Deco architecture in Jonesboro, and for its contribution to the historic flavor of

Craighead County Courthouse
Name of Property

Craighead County, Arkansas
County and State

Jonesboro's city center. The brick building is accented with vertical limestone panels containing floral patterns and horizontal limestone coping carved with a wing motif at each corner. The American Doughboy monument at the northeast corner of the courthouse lawn was dedicated in 1920 and is considered contributing to the nomination.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Stuck, Charles A. *The Story of Craighead County*. Jonesboro, Arkansas: The Hurley Company, 1960. Pp.76, 88, 222,235.

Information submitted by Judge Roy Bearden, Craighead County Judge, February 1998.

Gill, John Purifoy and Marjem Jackson. "On the Courthouse Square in Arkansas." 1980. P.30

Williams, Henry Lee. *The History of Craighead County, Arkansas*. Southern Historical Press, 1977, p. 373.

Honnoll, Danny W. "The Battle of Jonesboro, August 2, 1862." Self-published, 1997.

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 -- Specify Repository: _____

Craighead County Courthouse
Name of Property

Craighead County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Less than 1 acre.

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A 15 707300 3968140 B _____
C _____ _____ _____ D _____

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at the southeast corner of the intersection of Main and Jackson Streets proceed northerly along the east side of the courthouse square to the northeast corner of Washington thence proceed westerly to the northwest corner of the intersection of Washington and Union Streets thence proceed southerly along the west side of the square to the southwest corner of the intersection of Jackson and Union Streets. Thence proceed easterly along the southern edge of the courthouse square to point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

This nomination includes all of the property historically associated with the Craighead County Courthouse in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

11. Form Prepared By

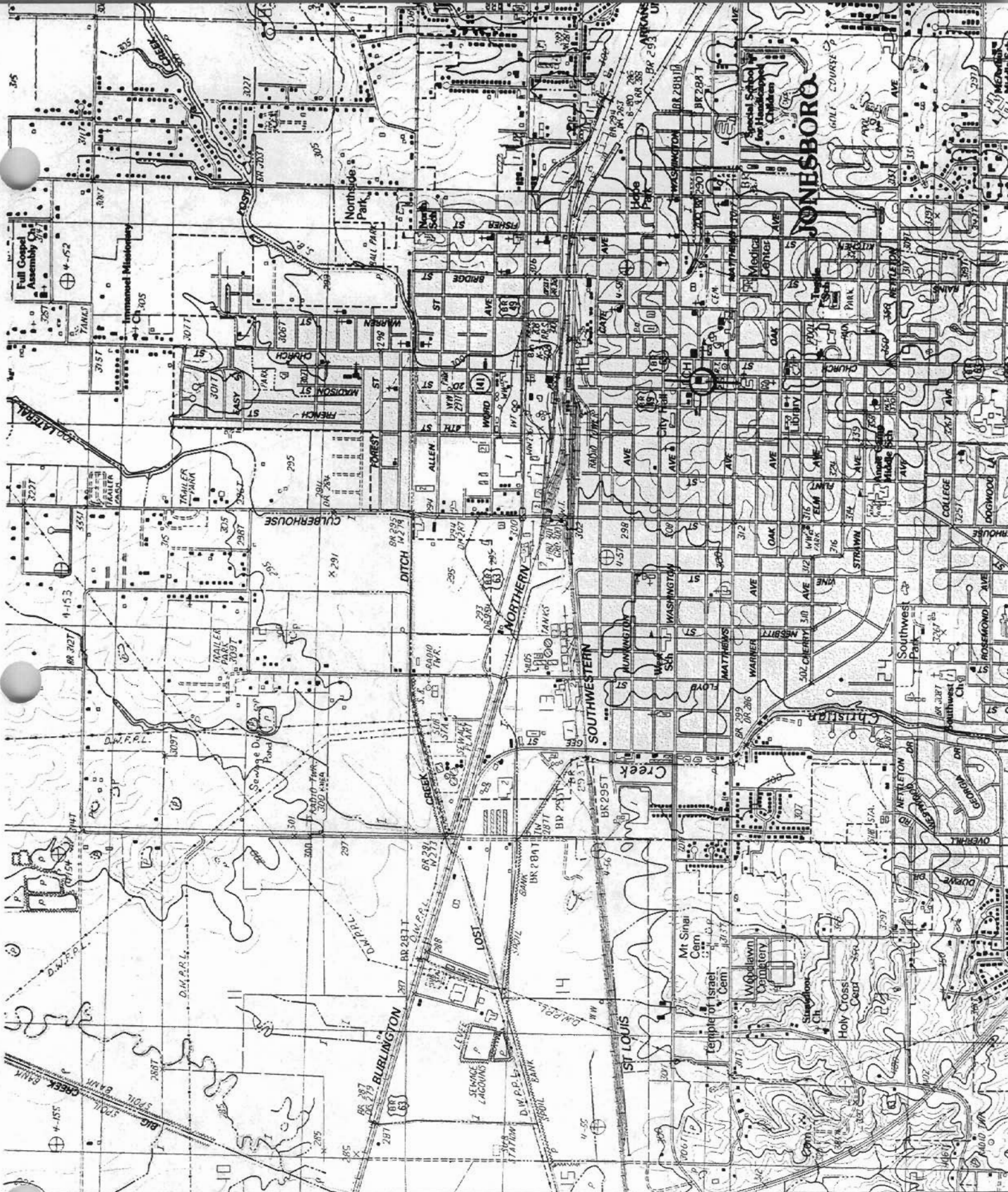
Name/Title: Holly Hope/Survey Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 04/13/98

Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock

State: AR ZIP: 72201



SHEAD CO.
 HOUSE
 SHEAD CO.
 SBORO, AR 10
 7300/
 140

3970

3970

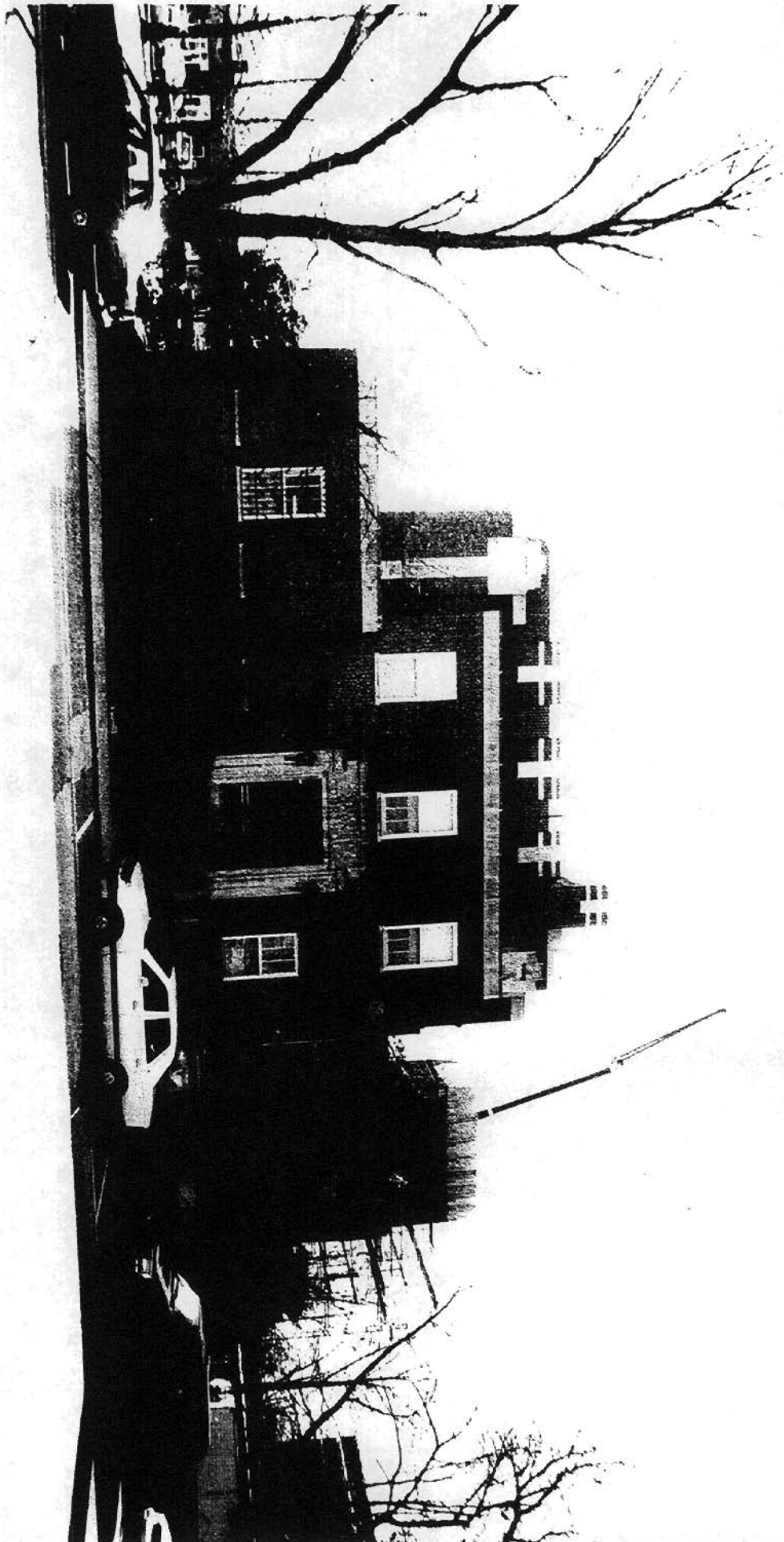
3980

3988

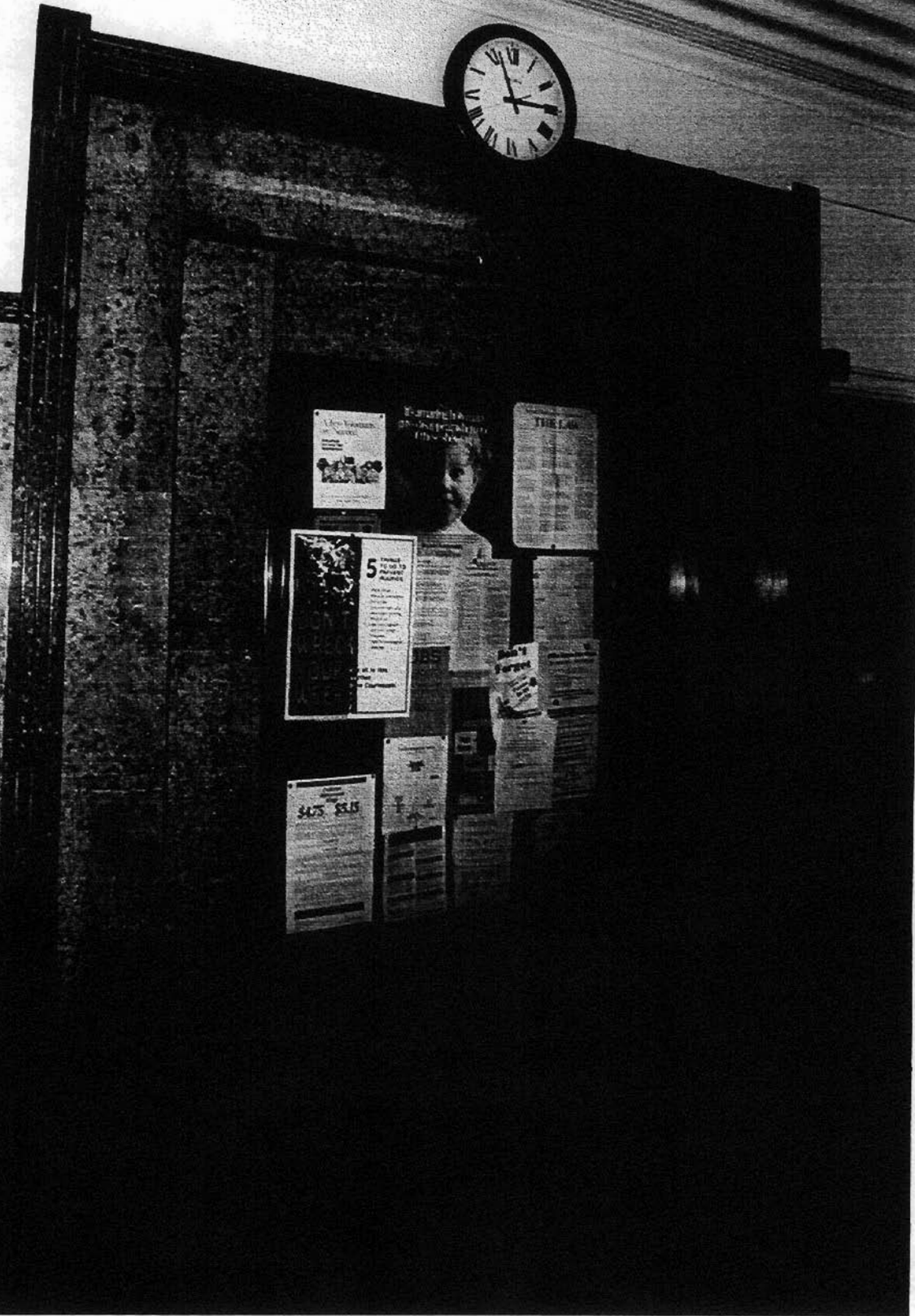
50'

3987

1910
1911
1912
1913
1914
1915
1916
1917
1918
1919
1920
1921
1922
1923
1924
1925
1926
1927
1928
1929
1930
1931
1932
1933
1934
1935
1936
1937
1938
1939
1940
1941
1942
1943
1944
1945
1946
1947
1948
1949
1950
1951
1952
1953
1954
1955
1956
1957
1958
1959
1960
1961
1962
1963
1964
1965
1966
1967
1968
1969
1970
1971
1972
1973
1974
1975
1976
1977
1978
1979
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
1988
1989
1990
1991
1992
1993
1994
1995
1996
1997
1998
1999
2000
2001
2002
2003
2004
2005
2006
2007
2008
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
2025







A New Era
of...

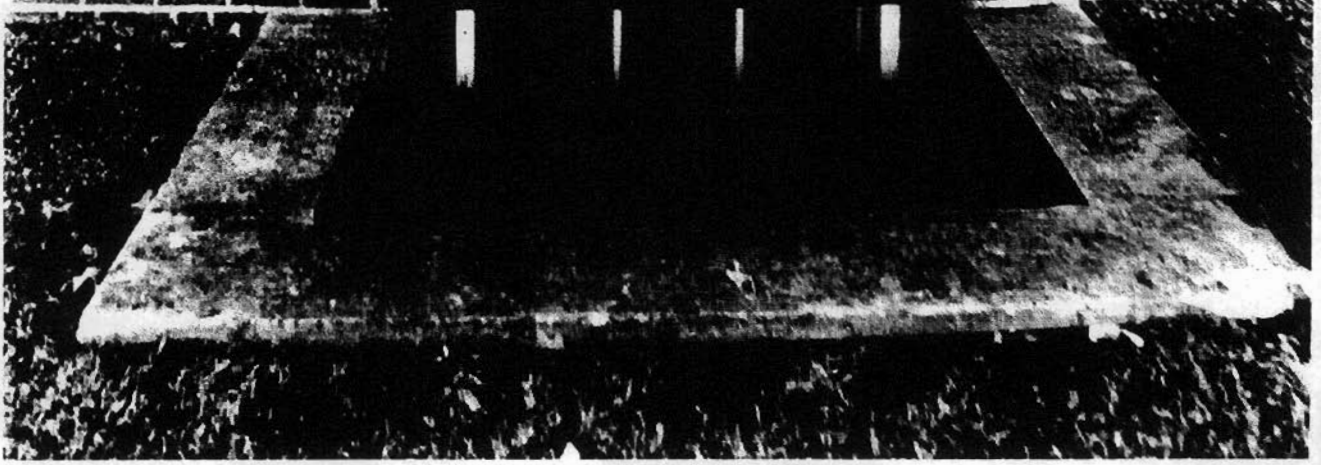
Remember to Always
Check your...

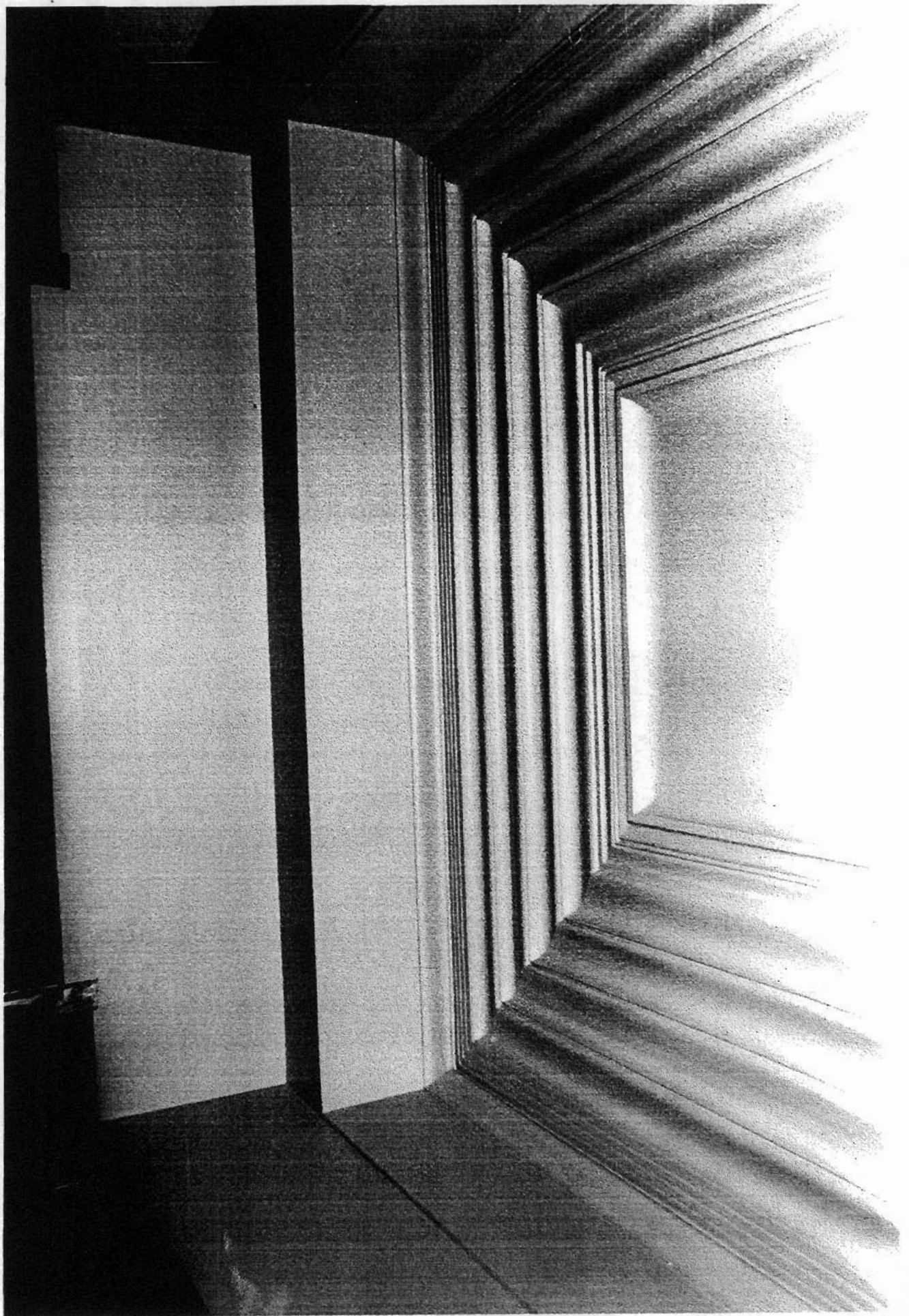
THE EAGLE

5
Thank you to
Pamela...

\$475 \$515









THE CRAIGHEAD COUNTY COURTHOUSE
IS A HISTORIC BUILDING AND IS
REGISTERED AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC
LANDMARK. IT IS A GREAT EXAMPLE
OF CLASSICAL ARCHITECTURE AND
IS A MUST-SEE FOR VISITORS TO
THE AREA.

THE CRAIGHEAD COUNTY COURTHOUSE
IS A HISTORIC BUILDING AND IS
REGISTERED AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC
LANDMARK. IT IS A GREAT EXAMPLE
OF CLASSICAL ARCHITECTURE AND
IS A MUST-SEE FOR VISITORS TO
THE AREA.

THE CRAIGHEAD COUNTY COURTHOUSE
IS A HISTORIC BUILDING AND IS
REGISTERED AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC
LANDMARK. IT IS A GREAT EXAMPLE
OF CLASSICAL ARCHITECTURE AND
IS A MUST-SEE FOR VISITORS TO
THE AREA.

THE CRAIGHEAD COUNTY COURTHOUSE
IS A HISTORIC BUILDING AND IS
REGISTERED AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC
LANDMARK. IT IS A GREAT EXAMPLE
OF CLASSICAL ARCHITECTURE AND
IS A MUST-SEE FOR VISITORS TO
THE AREA.



