

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

Arkansas
COUNTY:
Clark
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Clark County Library *CL019*

AND/OR HISTORIC: Arkadelphia Library

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 609 Caddo Street

CITY OR TOWN: Arkadelphia CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Fourth

STATE: Arkansas CODE: 05 COUNTY: Clark CODE: 019

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Clark County Library Board

STREET AND NUMBER: 609 Caddo Street

CITY OR TOWN: Arkadelphia STATE: Arkansas CODE: 05

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Clark County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER: Crittenden Street

CITY OR TOWN: Arkadelphia STATE: Arkansas CODE: 05

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Clark County Library is a small brick building originally of square plan. Its most significant exterior feature is a heavy Ionic portico with four columns and heavy entablature. The proportions of the entablature have been distorted by the extended cornice to form a wide soffit about the main building. The roof is medium hipped with outside end chimneys. An unusual feature is the use of small dormers with pediment which straddle each chimney. A diamond-shaped asbestos shingle is used on the roof.

The fenestration is interesting. Arched window openings with lights giving the appearance of a tracery window are used. The Adamesque entry is an elliptical fanlight over double doors with sidelights.

Semicircular brick arches with stone keystones are used over the window openings as well as stone window sills. Brick quoins are used at the corners of the building.

The interior appearance of the building is essentially as it was originally. Ceilings are approximately fifteen feet in height. Heavy moulded trim with corner blocks is used about all fenestration. New wood flooring is in evidence. Of particular interest is a fireplace with oak overmantel and oval mirrors flanking a clock. Though the original brick facing has been covered over with tile, the beauty of the original mantel-piece compensates for it. Only one mantel-piece remains today, the other having been removed at some previous time. The entry doors with sidelights are panelled and contain glass beveled at the edges.

Several additions have been made to the original structure. Small wings to either side of the original structure have been added. They differ slightly from the original building in the entablature and the intersection of the ridge lines. A more recent addition along the entire rear of the structure, though not in harmony with the original building, is unobtrusive. Interior remodelling work is anticipated in the near future which will restore some parts of the building while improving the internal efficiency of the plan.

The building sits on the rear portion of a small lot facing north. It is in an excellent state of repair though in need of some maintenance work.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century; 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1903

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Clark County Library is one of the oldest library buildings in Arkansas, and is representative of early efforts to establish libraries in the State. On November 11, 1897, about thirty Arkadelphia women banded together to form the Women's Library Association. Their goal was to establish a public library in Arkadelphia, and within six years this goal was achieved. The vision of these determined women was translated into the brick and mortar of a beautiful public building.

The Women's Library Association began its collection of books with donations from members and local citizens, and with \$98.00 earned from a fund-raising dinner. The books were stored in the Association president's home, and later moved to rent-free space downtown. By 1899 the Association was forced to rent space for its book collection. At this time the library building fund began.

Through money-raising events such as oyster suppers, bazaars, spelling bees, and fiddlers' contests, about \$1,000.00 was raised. In 1903, a \$3,000.00 loan was secured and construction of a library building began. During the ten years following its opening, money-raising activities continued to pay off the library building loan. The most significant event occurred in 1905 when Willian Jennings Bryan gave a benefit lecture for the library. By 1913 the debt was fully paid.

Designed by Architect Charles L. Thompson of Little Rock, the library was built by James Pullen. An oversized portico with Ionic columns mark the facade of this one-storey red brick structure. The Clark County Library was completed in 1903, and remains intact today as an example of early 20th century institutional architecture in Arkansas.

Throughout its history the Clark County Library has served other than just the academic needs of the Arkadelphia community. It has often been used for recitals, by church

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Arkansas	
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(Number all entries)

Significance (Continued - Page 2)

and civic groups, and for public meetings. During World War I it was converted to a Red Cross workshop filled with cutting tables and sewing machines. For over seventy years the library has served the city as both an academic and, to a lesser extent, a community center.

From its 1903 opening until 1939, the library was owned and operated by the Women's Library Association; however, in the latter year, the building and its contents were donated to the city. In 1974 the deed was transferred to the Clark County Library Board, enabling the library to better serve the entire county.

Architecturally the library expresses a style in vogue for institutional structures built during the early 20th century in Arkansas. The Classical features of the building suggest the emphasis placed on Classical studies during the period when the library was designed and built. As one of the oldest library buildings in Arkansas, the Clark County Library is representative of the very small number (less than ten) of public libraries which existed in Arkansas during the first third of the twentieth century.