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NR 4-15-78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Conway County Library
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER		___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
101 West Church		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	
CITY, TOWN		VICINITY OF	
Morrilton		Second	
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Arkansas	05	Conway	029

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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME		STATE
City of Morrilton, Arkansas		Arkansas
STREET & NUMBER		VICINITY OF
City Hall		
CITY, TOWN		STATE
Morrilton		Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.	County Clerk's Office
STREET & NUMBER	Conway County Court House
CITY, TOWN	Morrilton
	STATE
	Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE	
DATE	
	___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS	
CITY TOWN	STATE

DESCRIPTION

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

The Pathfinder Club of Morrilton, Arkansas, founded in 1894, had as its primary goal the establishment of a free public library for Morrilton.

The first established collection was housed in private homes. Then a small unused building was used. During this period "The Porter Collection" (1600 plus rare books collected world-wide) was added to the library.

The need for a permanent building and a place to have the rare book collection resulted in an application to the Carnegie Foundation. The application was approved and, in 1916, as nearly as can be established, the total collection was moved into the new building. This building is still in use as the Conway County Library.

The Conway County Library is typical of the Carnegie libraries built during the 1901-1917 time period.

The building is located on a small corner lot, faces north, and is in the approximate center of the business community.

Its general characteristics are:

- a. rectangular in shape — 30 ft by 50 ft, with a total of 3,000 square feet area.
- b. two stores with one and a half stores above ground.
- c. the outside walls are straight, broken only by windows and entrances.
- d. construction is of red brick, 3 and 2 bricks thickness, with a concrete base ranging up to 18 inches thick.
- e. it has a hipped roof of heavy red tile.

Some of its specific features are:

- a. There are no porches, other than a small covering over the front entrance, no stoops, attached sheds or out buildings. Four large arched windows and a double glass door entrance on the front — facing north — and a double glass door at east basement entrance. Small windows are on three sides at ground and ceiling level.
- b. there is one small, but tall, chimney.

The Conway County Library was remodeled in 1971-72. No outside alterations were made except to replace the front double doors, the east double doors with glass doors and widen the back door entrance to accommodate double wood doors. A ramp was made to this entrance.

All the original windows were used and all outside wood areas were painted.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Inside, the entrance vestibule was removed, a stairway was opened on the south side to the basement, the upstairs floor was carpeted, all walls, basement and top floor, were paneled, the basement floor was tiled and all wood-work painted or stained.

The top floor ceiling was dropped 18 inches, all lights were recessed and two outside heating and/or cooling units were installed.

The entire remodeling project was done with an eye towards bringing about a blend of the old and the new.

The Conway County Library is situated on the corner of Church and Division Street. It is next door to a church, across the street from a church and 2 blocks from 2 church building. Church street itself has many 1900-1940 style houses, one of which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (Aycock-Jamell House, 5-13-76).

The building is on a small lot and no expansion or additional building can be done.

During remodeling, the grounds were landscaped and a small parking lot in the rear was graveled.

The building location is 1 block from the center of the business community, faces the community and is easily seen from the center of the community.

The building remains in good condition. It will require painting of all outside white surfaces in the near future.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Library	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1916 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Thomas Harding

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Conway County Library is one of the most outstanding early buildings in Morrilton, Arkansas. It is representative of the early efforts of a group of dedicated women to establish library service for the city of Morrilton. Their efforts were recorded in the brick that make a building that was meant to last.

Designed by architect Thomas Harding, the original board of trustees represented the leaders of the community. The name of the contractor was not available.

The Pathfinder Club was instrumental in getting this building erected and, after it was built, contributed to its bookstock.

The collection was moved into the new building in 1916. It remains basically the way it was built. It is an example of the early 1900's type of library architecture.

Throughout its history the building has remained the library for Morrilton and later as the library for Morrilton and Conway County. The basement was used for civic clubs, civic meetings and some public functions. Since remodeling, the basement became a part of the library and is used by the extension department, offices, workroom and to house The Porter Collection of over 1600 rare books.

Architecturally, the building shows the style of such structures which was the vogue of the early 20th century.

During the ceremonies to celebrate the remodeling of the Conway County Library, Mrs. Karl Neal, Librarian and Executive Secretary to the Arkansas Library Commission in her address remarked that one of the reasons some state money was given for the remodeling was because this building is a state historical landmark.

It is believed that this building is one of two Carnegie buildings in the state still in use strictly as a library.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	5
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

B. P. Greene

8-23-77

ORGANIZATION

Conway County Library

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

101 West Church

TELEPHONE

501-354-5204

CITY OR TOWN

Morrilton

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

TITLE

DATE

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



ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Suite 500, Continental Building, Main and Markham
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 Telephone: (501) 371-2763



August 10, 1977

Mr. Bill Green, Librarian
Conway County Library
Morrilton, AR 72110

AUG 19 1977

Re: Conway County Library
Morrilton, Conway County

Dear Mr. Green:

The staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program is preparing a National Register nomination for the Conway County Library which will be presented to the Arkansas State Review Committee at their September meeting. If approved, the nomination will be submitted to the National Register office in Washington for final consideration.

The National Register of Historic Places is a listing of historic sites, buildings, objects, and districts from all across the country that are worthy of preservation.

Entry in the National Register is an honor which places no obligation on a private owner. It does, however, provide protection through comment by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation from federally financed, assisted or licensed projects that might affect a National Register property.

On October 4, 1976, the President signed a Tax Reform Act of which Section 2124 refers to tax incentives for historic properties. Enclosed you will find a information sheet on that tax act.

If you have any questions concerning the program or this property's nomination, please contact Dianna Kirk of our staff.

Enclosed are two copies of this letter. Please complete the form below, sign and return the original to our office. The copy is for your files. We would appreciate receiving any comments you might have concerning the nomination of this property. If we do not hear from you within 30 days, your approval will be assumed.

Sincerely,

Barbara Woodard

Barbara Woodard, Deputy Director
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

I approve of the nomination of the above property
to the National Register of Historic Places

 /
Yes No

Comments: . . .

8/10/77
Date

Bill Green
Signature



