

14-02-M020-33

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE NR 4-15-78



FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

**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

00000000

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Court Square

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Magnolia

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

4

STATE

Arkansas

VICINITY OF

CODE

05

COUNTY

Columbia

CODE

027

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Judge Robert Henderson

STREET & NUMBER

Columbia County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Magnolia

STATE

Arkansas

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

County Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Columbia County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Magnolia

STATE

Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Arkansas County Courthouse

DATE

1975-76

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

CITY, TOWN

Magnolia

STATE

Arkansas

7 DESCRIPTION

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 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 Columbia County Courthouse, designed by W. W. Hall and built in 1905 is an example of Second Renaissance Revival. The structure, rectangular in plan and domed, is composed of blond brick with stone detailing. The two storeys, separated by an agee cornice, are articulated differently at each level. Windows at the first level have stone lintels separating their transoms from the window proper. The sills are stone and the transoms are topped by stone flat arches and pronounced key stones. On the second level, masonry pilasters with Corinthian capitals separate windows which are topped by corniced stone lintels. A modillioned and denticulated cornice articulates the top of the building. The foundation is of rusticated stone. Each elevation is broken into three bays.

The north and south elevations are identical with the middle bay inset. The entrances on these elevations are interior porches the openings of which are framed in a semi-circular stone arch springing from a masonry pier which is set into full entablature composed of Corinthian capitals pilasters supporting a modillioned and denticulated cornice. Above the entrance, on the second level, is a gallery with Corinthian capitals and decorative iron railing.

On the east elevation, a two storey, pedimented portico forms the main entrance to the building. The first level of the portico is a masonry rectangle opened by three Roman arches on the east side and by one on the north and one on the south. The imposts are of stone and the arches are stone with pronounced keystones. On the second level, a Corinthian colonnade supports a pediment containing an acanthus frieze.

The entrance, center, bay of the west elevation projects slightly. It also is two storied and has a pediment and acanthus frieze. At its first level is an interior porch like that on the north and south elevations. Above are Corinthian pilasters between windows bays.

There have been few alterations to the exterior of the structure. Wooden windows have been replaced with metal windows and the north and south entrances have been cemented.

The interior, however, is much altered. Originally, there was a cross-shaped hall running between the four entrances. The north to south axis is now partitioned into office space. Some interior surfaces have been paneled. The courtroom on the second floor was originally two storeys high with a gallery around the rotunda walls. However, a third floor was built above the courtroom and uses space in the rotunda.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1905

BUILDER/ARCHITECT W. W. Hall

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The three-storey Columbia County Courthouse, designed by W. W. Hall, was built in 1905. Today, its exterior remains a classic example of Second Renaissance Revival architecture. The massive, rectangular structure is composed of blond brick with stone detailing. Only two stories are apparent through observation of the exterior. These floors are separated by an aged cornice. The rotunda which centers the building and which once housed a tall courtroom, has been divided to form two floors, one of which forms the building's third floor.

All detailing on the building reflects the revival of interest in the Classic and Renaissance motif, which characterized much of America's and Arkansas' public building in the early twentieth-century. Corinthian columns, arcades, pediments, keystone lintels and the rotunda are a few of the Neo-Classical Revival features found on the structure. In keeping with Renaissance, the exterior treatment of each floor is articulated in differing patterns. The north and south elevations of the structure are identical and the entrances to each of these elevations have been concreted over as the hallways leading from these entrances have been transformed into office and storage space. The main entrance, a Roman three-bay arcade surmounted by a second floor, colonnaded portico, is located on the east elevation.

The basic fabric of the interior remains intact. However, its original appearance is much altered. The interior has been partitioned into modern office space and many of the original walls have been paneled. The original wooden stairway remains and the east-west entrance-hallway presents reasonable if somewhat worn, reminders of its original appearance. The two-storey courtroom, located in the rotunda, has been divided into two floors and the upper floor serves as a second courtroom in the building.

Centering a square around which is built the Magnolia business district, the Columbia County courthouse is the third courthouse to occupy the site. Columbia County was formed in 1852 and became the fifty-fifth of Arkansas' seventy-five counties. Almost immediately after the county was organized, a temporary log courthouse was built on the south side of Magnolia's public square. Construction began on a permanent courthouse in 1856. In 1903, a two-mill tax levy was made for the construction of the present courthouse building and the contract was made for the lowest bid of \$58, 631.21 in 1905. Initially, Columbia County was one of Arkansas' leaders in cotton production. However, in recent years the oil and timber industries have formed the backbone of the local economy.

Another, if somewhat more abstract, area of significance belonging to the building is that it symbolizes the historic role county government has played in

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

Columbia County. County government has been and is the closest and most personal contact between the people of Columbia County and representative democracy. The administrative arm of county government is conducted by a body of officials elected in a county-wide ballot. The fiscal and minor judicial work of the county is handled by the Quorum Court, whose members are elected by voters grouped in townships. Duties of the county government are varied and range from the maintenance and improvement of highways to the issuing of marriage licenses and the recording of deeds. The county even serves, to some extent, as the basic administrative and judicial unit of state government. The state welfare and auditorial departments and chancery and juvenile courts all operate at the county level.

In Arkansas, as a rule, the county courthouse building is one of the most impressive public buildings in the county. This is certainly the case for the Columbia County Courthouse in Magnolia. The emphasis upon the large size and impressive detailing found on the courthouse reflects the importance which the citizens of the county have placed upon local government, for county government administers to basic local needs of the people, and by doing so has helped to determine the pattern which history has followed in Columbia County.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

County Government Across the Nation, Ed. Paul W. Wagoner; Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1950.

Spley, Mike, Interview. Magnolia, AR - July 28, 1977

Survey of Arkansas Courthouses, Vol. IV. National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the state of Arkansas, 1968

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	47,75,8,0	3,68,07,2,0	B					
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C					D				

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Courtsquare, Magnolia, AR

11 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	
Frezil Miller, Architect and Mike Shinn, Historian	
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program	September, 1977
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
Suite 500, Continental Bldg., Main at Markham	501-371-2763
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Little Rock	Arkansas 72201

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



August 11, 1977

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

The Honorable R. W. Henderson
Columbia County Judge
Columbia County Courthouse
Magnolia, Arkansas 71752

AUG 16 1977

Re: Columbia County Courthouse

Dear Judge Henderson:

The staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program is preparing a National Register nomination for the Columbia County Courthouse 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 funded, 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 an information sheet on that tax act.

If you have any questions concerning the program or this property's nomination please contact Mike Shinn 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. X
Yes No

Comments: I am very happy that this Courthouse is being considered and I feel that it is a fine example of an historical place in it's architecture and construction. We will be happy to work with your agency any way we can.

8-15-77 *R. W. Henderson*
Date Signature

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brown, Walter L. "The Magnolia Meeting of the Arkansas Historical Association - 1968," Arkansas Historical Quarterly, Vol. XXVII, No. 3 (Autumn, 1968).

Columbia County Tax Assessment Lists, 1853, 1861, 1866.

El Dorado Daily News, May 7, 1961.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		33° 16' 42.8"	93° 21' 01.2"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY:

NAME AND TITLE:
Staff

ORGANIZATION: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

STREET AND NUMBER: 1023 West Third Street

CITY OR TOWN: Little Rock

STATE: Arkansas

CODE: 05

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Handwritten marks and scribbles at the top right corner.

Small rectangular mark or stamp at the top left corner.

Vertical line of text or markings on the right edge.

Vertical line of text or markings on the right edge.

Long vertical line of text or markings on the right edge.

Vertical line of text or markings on the right edge.

Horizontal line of text or markings at the bottom left corner.