

NR 8-27-76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

RECEIVED CR0102
DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Carroll County Courthouse, Eastern District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Public Square

CITY, TOWN

Berryville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

CODE
05

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

COUNTY
Carroll

CODE
015

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
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Carroll County (Arthur Carter, County Judge)

STREET & NUMBER

Carroll County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Berryville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Circuit Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Carroll County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Berryville

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 Carroll County Courthouse at Berryville was originally a two storey structure measuring approximately 46 feet by 56 feet. Built of pressed brick made at the construction site, the 1880 structure's facade consisted of three inset bays. Semi-elliptical brick arches marked the window and door surrounds, and a decorative pattern worked in brick spanned the facade at the roof line. Simple brickwork ornamentation softened the harsh lines of the original rectangular flat-roofed building.

The enlargement of the courthouse in 1904-1905 transformed it into the present structure, measuring approximately 90 feet by 100 feet. Using red brick to match the original, a third floor with mansard roof was added to the original two storey structure. The facade retained its three inset bays, but lost the brickwork ornamentation at the original roof line. The most striking change to the building came with the addition of two square towers at each corner of the facade. These four storey towers added greatly to the imposing appearance of the courthouse.

The arched window openings were replaced with rectangular openings trimmed with limestone lintels and lugsills. The brick arched center bay entry was replaced with a cut limestone arch matching the window trim. This entry style was repeated at the central bay openings on both the second and third floors. Paired brackets were used to decorate the boxed cornice and frieze of both the main structure and the two attached towers. The last major work on the building occurred in 1935 when the exterior brick was painted and a basement was added.

The first two floors in the interior are arranged with a central hall opening on to several offices along each side. A wide stairway in the southeast corner winds from the first to the second and third floors. Plaster above tongue-in-groove wainscoting is used throughout the interior of the building.

Most of the third storey is taken up by the courtroom which has a seating capacity of three hundred persons. A decorative wooden railing separates the judge's bench, witness stand and jury box from the spectator's area. Of special interest in this room are the iron grided clerk's enclosure and the stamped metal ceiling.

Both inside and out the Carroll County Courthouse at Berryville is reminiscent of the turn-of-the-century era in which it was built. As Berryville's most important historic landmark, the courthouse is also the city's most architecturally significant structure.

SIGNIFICANCE

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 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 checked="" 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

J. P. Fancher

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

When Carroll County, Arkansas, was established in 1833, the town of Carrollton was chosen by a board of commissioners to be the county seat. During the next forty years three new counties were created from lands originally in Carroll County. These boundary changes left Carrollton on the eastern edge of a greatly reduced county. Inevitably, a demand arose that the county seat be moved to a more centrally located site.

After much controversy and two elections, the Carroll County seat was moved from Carrollton to Berryville in 1875. On May 10 of that year County Judge A. Fanning appointed a commission to select a site in Berryville for the new county buildings. Commissioners E. J. Black, J. S. O'Neal and Isaac Plumlee purchased from Blackburn H. Berry a lot on which to build the courthouse. Berry then donated a tract of land just east of the courthouse site to be used as a public square.

R. H. Jones prepared the plans and specifications for Berryville's first courthouse. On December 6, 1880, the contract for construction of the new courthouse was awarded to J. P. Fancher, who estimated building costs at \$8,997.50. The original two-storey brick and stone structure was completed and first occupied in the autumn of 1881. A central hall was located on the first floor of this 46 feet by 56 feet building. The second floor contained a large court room and two small jury rooms.

Soon after the courthouse at Berryville was completed in 1881, citizens in the western part of the county began to move to have a second county seat established at Eureka Springs. In the early 1880's this health spa community grew very rapidly. The mountainous terrain and the frequent floods of the King's River made travel between Eureka Springs and the county seat at Berryville quite hazardous. In 1883 the Arkansas General Assembly reacted favorably to the demand for a second Carroll County Courthouse at Eureka Springs. The Berryville Courthouse remained, and Carroll County became one of several Arkansas counties with two seats of government.

In 1904-1905 the Berryville Courthouse was enlarged when a third storey was added on top of the original flat-roofed structure. Other additions included a mansard roof covering the third floor, two four-storey towers at the northeast and southeast corners of the building, and an extension of the rear of the building. Brick used in these additions matched the original brick. The original interior wall covering of plaster above tongue-in-groove pine wainscoting was

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE one

also copied in the 1904-1905 improvements. These early twentieth century alterations to the building cost about \$7,000.00, and transformed the courthouse into Berryville's most architecturally interesting structure. Though it has no definable style, the courthouse is reminiscent of the late Victorian period in which it was constructed.

After 90 years of service the Carroll County Courthouse is no longer large enough to accommodate county government offices. As soon as county offices are moved to another building, the lower floor of the courthouse will be used as office space for the County Welfare Department. The second floor will be used as a meeting place for the Carroll County Historical Society, while the Carroll County Museum will occupy the third floor.

Over the years Berryville's Carroll County Courthouse served many purposes in addition to housing the eastern district county offices. It has been used by church groups, for dramatic productions, lectures, and community meetings, and as a storm shelter and improvised hospital. Its past and present usefulness, and its late Victorian architectural features combine to make the Carroll County Courthouse a most significant historic structure in Berryville.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Braswell, O. Klute. "Evolution of the Berryville Court Square Park." Carroll County Historical Quarterly, Vol. XI (December, 1966).
- Deane, Earnie. "Carroll County's Two Courthouses." Carroll County Historical Quarterly, Vol. VII (December, 1962).
- Hyde, Halleen. "County Landmark Deserves Restoration." Carroll County Historical Quarterly, Vol. XIV (December, 1969).

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	4,4,9	0,7,0	4,0	2,4	2,9,0	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

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

3-11-75

STREET & NUMBER

300 West Markham

TELEPHONE

501-371-1639

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

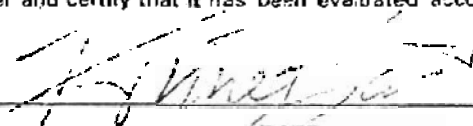
NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE Anne Bartley



TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 3/9/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

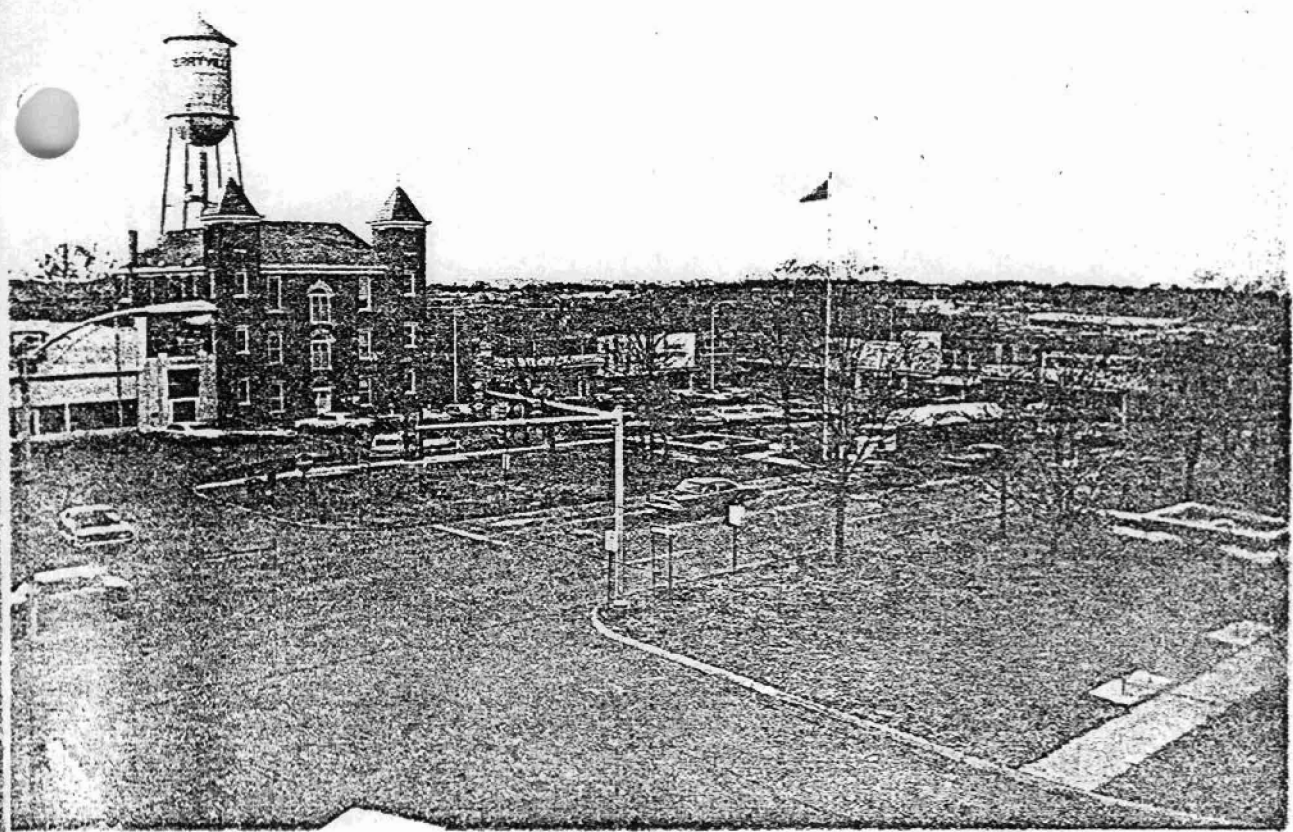
DATE

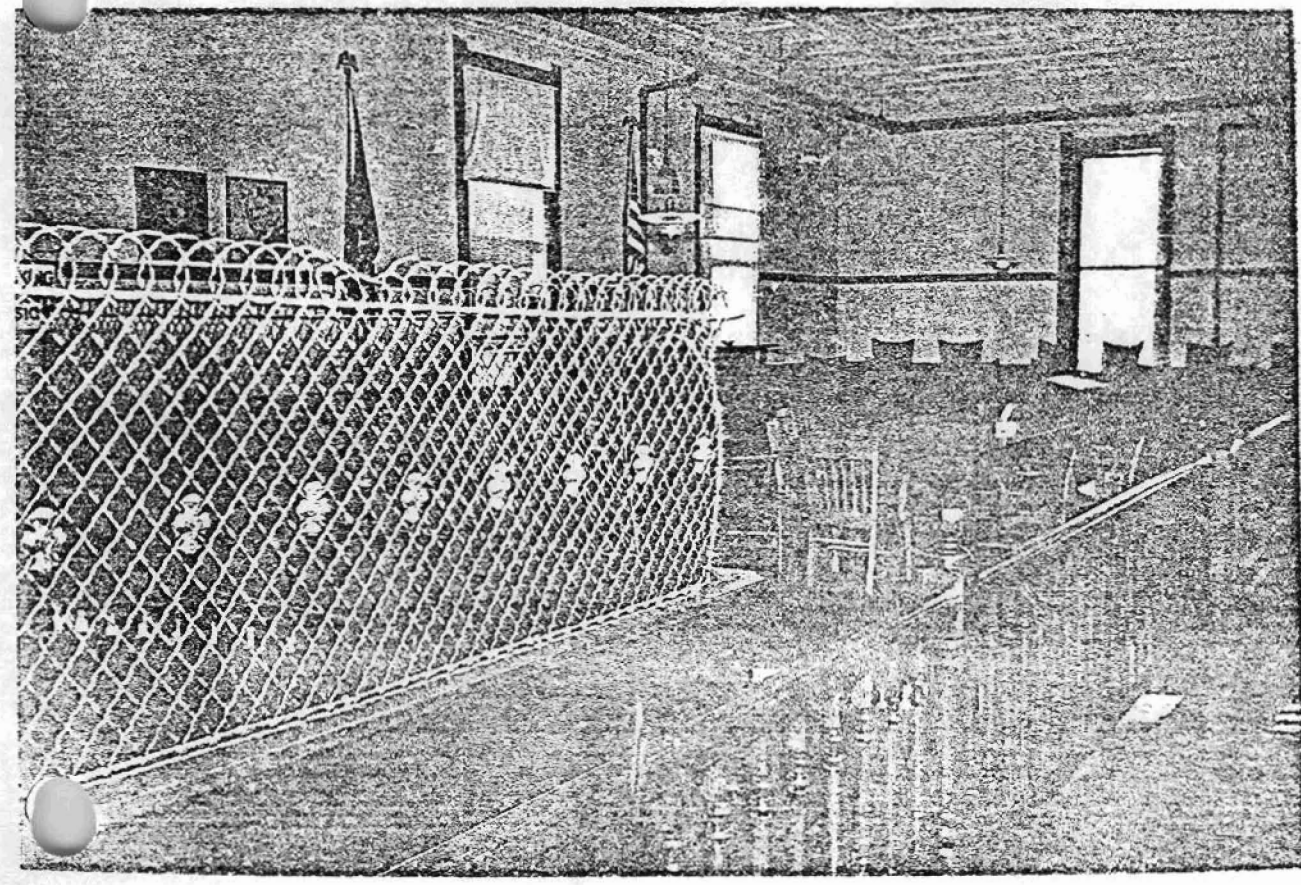
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

WITNESSES:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER





UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

93° 37' 30"
36° 22' 30"

4025 000m N.

4024

4023

T. 20 N.

T. 19 N.

4021

445 000m E.

446

GATEWAY 30 MI.
EUREKA SPRINGS 12 MI.

35'

448 1.2 MI. TO JUNG ARK. 21 & 221 (GRA)

Carroll County Courthouse
Berryville, Arkansas

UTM Reference
15 / 449 070 / 4024 290

