

18-06-W100-33

NR 83-77

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

DATE ENTERED C70018

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

**1** NAME

HISTORIC

Crittenden County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

**2** LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

95 Jackson Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Marion

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

Arkansas

VICINITY OF

CODE

05

COUNTY

Crittenden

CODE

035

**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

Residents of Crittenden County c/o County Judge

STREET & NUMBER

95 Jackson Street

CITY, TOWN

Marion

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

**5** LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Crittenden County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Marion

STATE

Arkansas

**6** REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 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

Constructed in 1910-11, the Crittenden County Courthouse at Marion is a two-storey, nine-bay, symmetrical building featuring south (facade) and north elevations that were built to be identical. The present courthouse replaced the 1873 structure, which burned in 1908. The Chamberlain and Company architectural firm of Fort Worth, Texas; designed the Crittenden County Courthouse, and it was built at a total cost of \$99,740.

A two-storey, five-bay portico embellishes both the south and north elevations. Six unfluted Ionic columns span both storeys of the porticos. The frieze of each portico contains the inscription, "Obedience to the law is liberty," in bold black letters. Wide steps with seven risers lead to the porticos. Both these elevations have double glass doors with transom leading into the front and rear halls. Above the south entrance doors has been added a seal of the State of Arkansas. The ceilings of the porticos are pressed tin.

The east and west elevations of the courthouse comprise seven bays. The central three bays project slightly. Each of the protruding three bays is bordered by white stuccoed bands, like the stuccoed bands which mark each corner of the building.

Simple molding and plain modillions enhance the cornice of the flat roof. A large copper-colored dome rests on a raised angular platform in the center of the roof. The base of the cylindrical dome has a band of rectangular windows and air vents near its top. The roof of the dome has an octagonal urn with finial.

Inconsistent replacement of panes has resulted in both one-over-one and two-over-two sash windows in uniform fenestration. The double windows are separated by a wide mullion but share a common lintel and casement. A pair of first-floor windows on the east elevation have been infilled with brick. Originally the uniform placement and style of windows enhanced the symmetry of the structure.

The Crittenden County Courthouse sits on the courthouse square. The square contains many large trees and a well-manicured lawn, and it provides a very picturesque setting for this impressive building.

## SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
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 1910-11 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Chamberlain and Company

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The largest number of architecturally significant public buildings in Arkansas are the courthouses scattered over the State's seventy-five counties. A structural symbol of American government, the county courthouse serves as the center of local political activity. Often the largest and most costly building in the county, the courthouse is almost always a source of pride to the citizens who financed and make use of its facilities.

The Territorial Legislature established Crittenden County and named it after Robert Crittenden in October 1825. Crittenden was the first Territorial Secretary and the first acting governor of Arkansas Territory. Crittenden County was formed from parts of Phillips County.

Greenock served as the first county seat until 1827, but no courthouse was constructed there. In 1827 Marion became the county seat and a frame courthouse was erected. A cyclone destroyed the first courthouse several years later and in 1873 a two-storey brick courthouse was constructed in Marion. A fire in 1909 razed the 1873 building.

The present Crittenden County Courthouse in Marion was designed by the Chamberlain architectural firm of Fort Worth, Texas, in 1910-11 at a cost of \$99,740.

The Crittenden County Courthouse is a two-storey, 9-bay, brick, Greek Revival building that features identical south (facade) and north elevations. Six Ionic capitals support the porticos, and both of the friezes contain the adage "Obedience to the law is liberty," in bold black lettering.

Simple molding on the cornice and plain modillions decorate the entablature of the roofline. A large, copper-colored dome rests on a raised, angular platform on top of the flat roof.

The east and west elevations are five-bays wide, each with a three-bay, protruding, central pavilion. Both are identical except that two of the first-storey windows on the east elevation have been infilled with bricks.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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The interior of the courthouse was extensively remodeled in 1945 and 1955. Lowered ceilings, paneled walls, carpeted floors, and a remodeled courtroom are the results. In the front entrance-hall, the original tile floor remains as one of the few interior architectural elements of interest. Although the interior of the courthouse has a modernized appearance, the exterior has not been altered, nor has it received any additions. The Crittenden County Courthouse sits on an attractive tree-shaded lot on the court square of the old City of Marion; it is a handsome local landmark that is both architecturally and historically significant to Crittenden County.

# MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Cornerstone, Crittenden County Courthouse.
- County Courthouse Survey. On file at Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.
- Crittenden County Court Records. J, P.360 and K., pp 12-19, 23.
- A Survey of Courthouses in Arkansas. Compiled by the National Society Colonial Dames of America in the State of Arkansas. Mrs. W. G. McDonald, Chairperson, Historical Activities Committee. Arkansas Room. Little Rock Public Library.

# GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 5	7 5 5 2 4 0	3 9 0 1 4 0 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

ORGANIZATION Donna DuVall, Historian DATE \_\_\_\_\_

STREET & NUMBER Arkansas Historic Preservation Program TELEPHONE December 14, 1976

CITY OR TOWN Suite 500, Continental Building STATE 501-371-2763

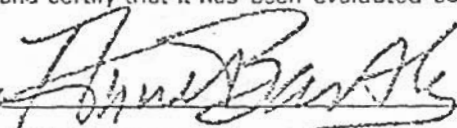
Little Rock, Arkansas

# 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 Anne Bartley 

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 12-14-76

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 \_\_\_\_\_

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

This Is Arkansas, Arkansas Association of County Judges, Inc.,  
(Little Rock: 1976), p. 93.

W.P.A. Place file, Crittenden County. On file at Arkansas History  
Commission.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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Crittenden County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

**2** LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Marion

\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Crittenden

STATE

Arkansas

**3** PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Bob Dunn

DATE OF PHOTO 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

**4** IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

view of south elevation

1

INT: 2983-75





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PHOTO CREDIT

Bob Dunn

DATE OF PHOTO 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

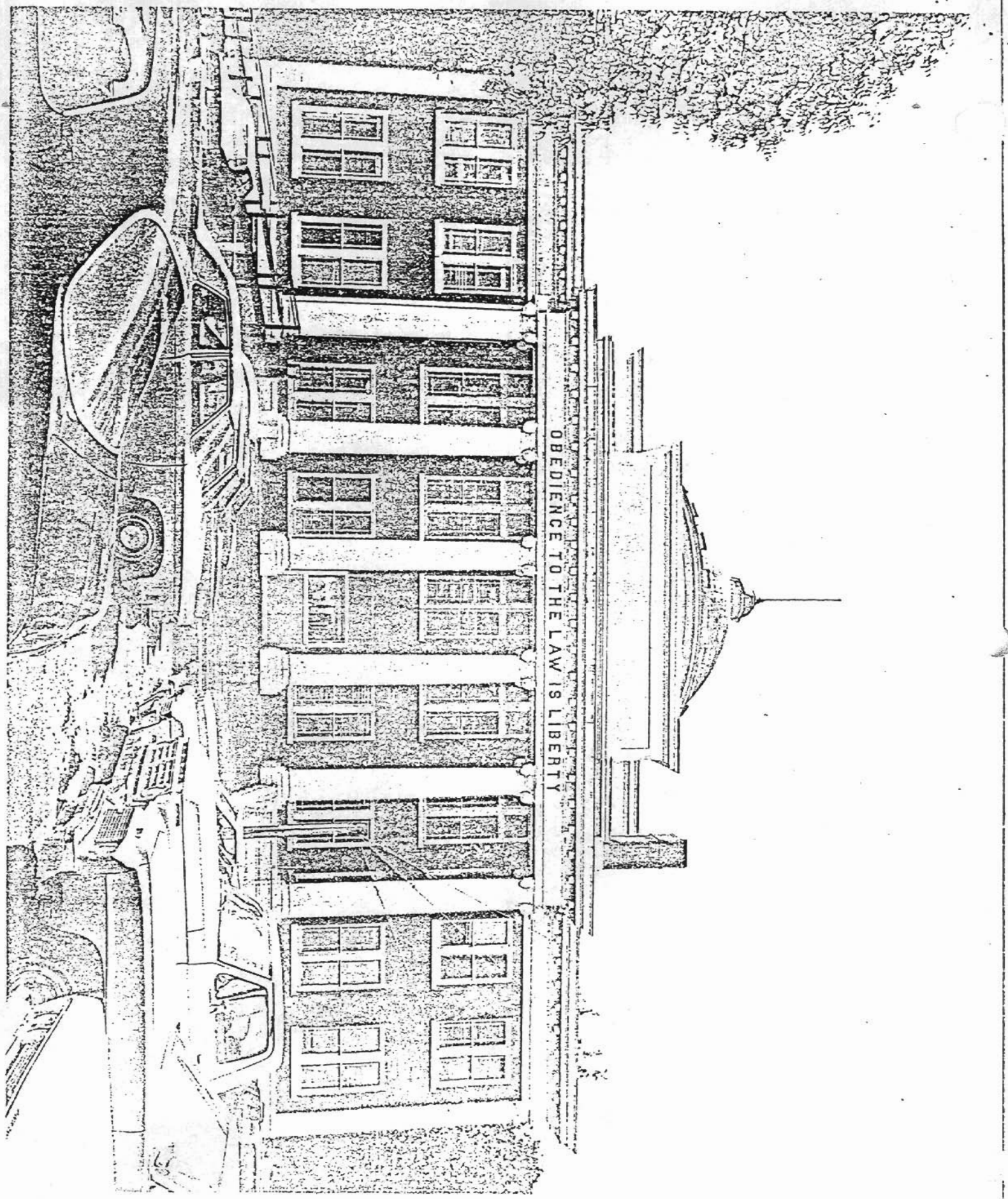
**4** IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

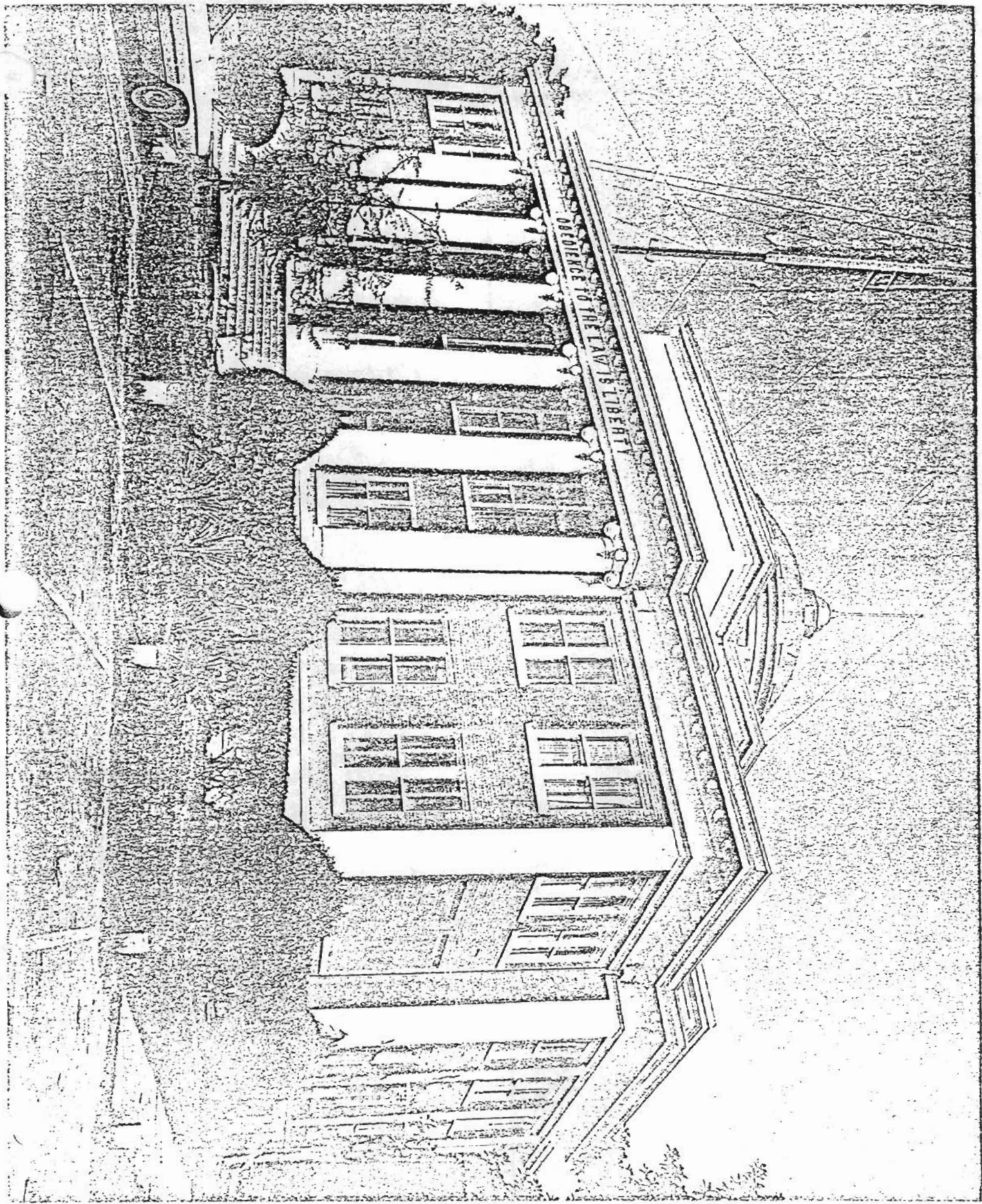
View of north elevation

PHOTO NO.

2



OBEDIENCE TO THE LAW IS LIBERTY



OBEDIENCE TO THE LAW IS LIBERTY

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Marion

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COUNTY

Crittenden

STATE

Arkansas

**3** PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Bob Dunn

DATE OF PHOTO

1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

**4** IDENTIFICATION

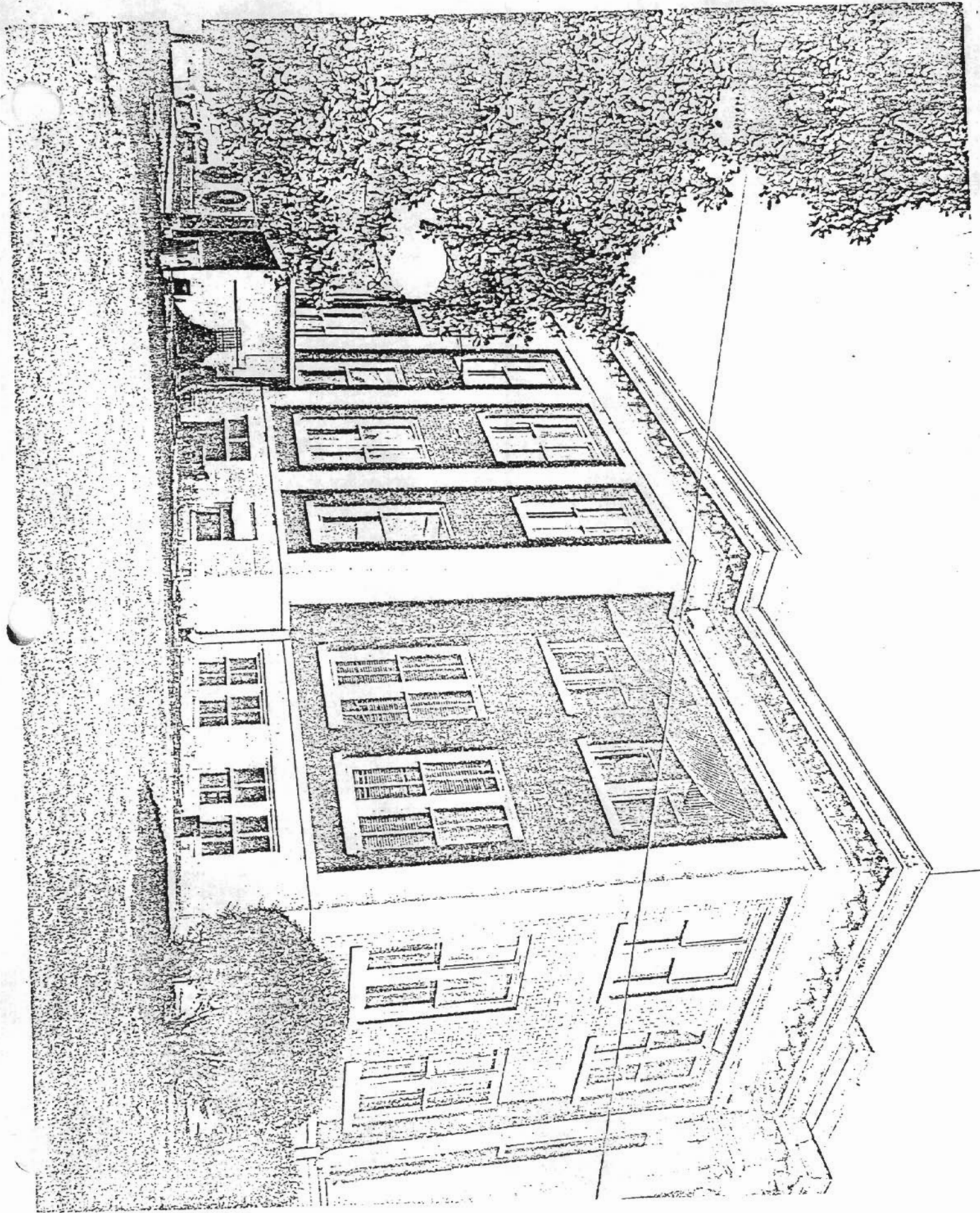
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

View of southeast elevation

3

INT: 2983-75



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PHOTO NO.

View of west elevation.

4

INT: 2983-75



## ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM



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

November 12, 1976

The Honorable Jack Brawley  
Crittenden County Judge  
Crittenden County Courthouse  
Marion, Arkansas

Re: Crittenden County Courthouse  
Crittenden County

Dear Judge Brawley:

The staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program is preparing a National Register nomination for the Crittenden County Courthouse which will be presented to the Arkansas State Review Committee at their December 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.

If you have any questions concerning the program or your property's nomination, please contact Donna DuVall 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

BW:emf

I approve of the above property being nominated  
to the National Register of Historic Places.

            
Yes

            
No

Comments:

12-11-76

(date)

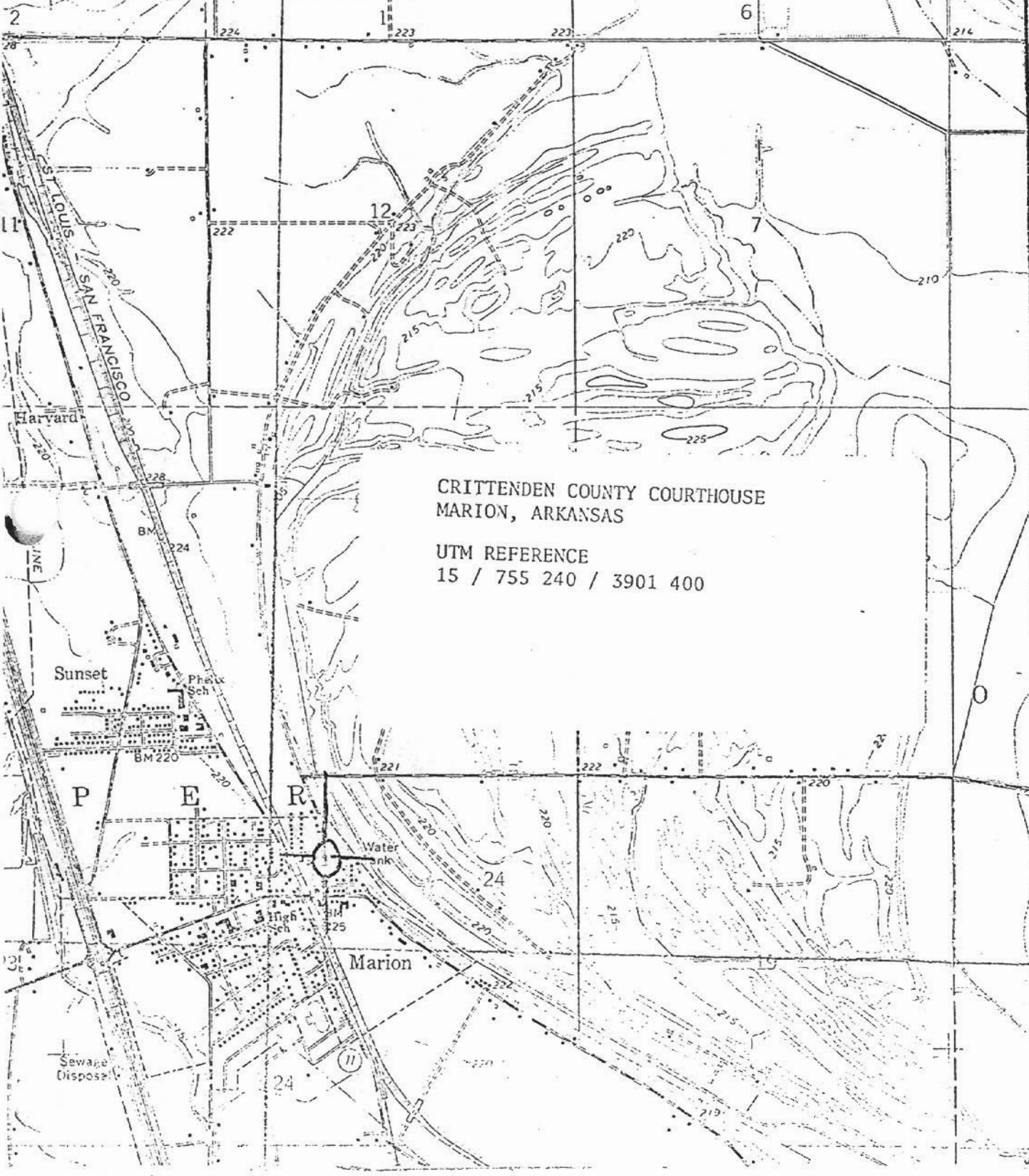
*Jack Brawley*

(signature)

29 MI.  
12'30"

755 R. 8 E (JERICHO 1:62 500)

R. 9 E 10' : 758



CRITTENDEN COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
MARION, ARKANSAS

UTM REFERENCE  
15 / 755 240 / 3901 400



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
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Marion

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Crittenden

STATE

Arkansas

**3** MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE United States Geological Survey

SCALE 1: 24,000

DATE 1966

**4** REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES