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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

Cleveland County Clerk's Building CV0014

AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Fairgrounds

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Rison

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fourth

STATE

Arkansas

CODE

05

COUNTY

Cleveland

CODE

025

## 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

Mrs James L. Moore

STREET & NUMBER

710 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Rison

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Cleveland County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Rison

STATE

Arkansas

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE <u>1975</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cleveland County Clerk's Building is a simple one-storey structure of frame construction. The building has a rectangular floor plan measuring twenty feet by thirty-two feet. A medium-pitch gable roof and narrow clapboard siding with cornerboards enclose the structure.

A shed roof porch extends across the narrow facade and is supported by four simple posts. Tall windows, which flank the double entry, reach to the porch floor.

The simplicity of the facade is repeated on the other elevations of the building. There are three long windows on the north elevation and a single window on the south elevation. These windows are four-light, double-hung sash with very plain trim. Single entries on the south and east elevations give additional access to the building.

When originally constructed the Cleveland County Clerk's Building was located on the northeast corner of the courthouse lawn. In 1940 it was moved to a downtown lot for commercial use, but has recently been moved (1975) to a permanent location at the Cleveland County fairgrounds. The clerk's office is the second historic structure to be moved to the fairgrounds as part of a nineteenth-century rural Arkansas village being reconstructed by the Cleveland County Historical Society.

Structurally, the building remains in good condition. Future plans call for its complete restoration and continued maintenance by the local history society.

# SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
3-1499	<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 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
<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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Just after the turn of the century a small frame building was erected on the northeast lawn of the Cleveland County Courthouse in Rison. This simple structure was built to house the office and records of the Cleveland County Clerk. The clerk's building afforded more work and storage space than was available in the frame courthouse.

For several years following its construction in 1902, this small structure housed the county clerk's office. However, in 1911 the new brick courthouse was completed on the site of the earlier frame courthouse, and the clerk's office was returned to the main building.

Three of Cleveland County's clerks had their offices in the County Clerk's Building; the three were Pitt Holmes, J. M. McMurtrey and John T. Haskins. After the county clerks vacated the building it was rented to a former Cleveland County sheriff, J. E. Moore, for his use as a private business office. From about 1921 until 1940 the building continued its public service use, as it housed an office for the Cleveland County Agricultural Extension Service.

In 1940 the building was moved from its original site on the courthouse lawn to Rison's nearby business district. Following its move the building first housed the offices of Dr. A. B. Robertson, a local physician. When purchased by Mrs. Lois Moore in 1974 the former clerk's building was being used by a dry-cleaning firm.

In 1975 the Cleveland County Clerk's Building was moved a second time and is now located at the Cleveland County fairgrounds. Under the direction of the Cleveland County Historical Society, several historic structures from around the county are being moved to the fairgrounds as part of a reconstructed nineteenth-century rural Arkansas village. The clerk's building is the second structure to become a part of the pioneer village.

This small frame structure, with its plain lines and simple trim, is unusual in both its original purpose and continued existence. Few, if any, Arkansas counties built any county offices separate from the courthouse. Thus, the construction of the clerk's building was itself unusual. The survival of this unpretentious frame structure is likewise unusual, especially considering that it has twice been moved.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

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As the oldest public building still standing in Cleveland County, the Clerk's Building is important as a local historic landmark.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cleveland County Court Records, Book 3, p. 363.

Cleveland County Herald (Rison, Arkansas), March 14, 1973.

Moore, Lois. "Cleveland County Clerk's Building." Unpublished manuscript on file with Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	5	5	7	4	6	8	1	0	3	7	5	7	0	9	0
ZONE			EASTING						NORTHING						

B 

ZONE			EASTING						NORTHING					

C 

ZONE			EASTING						NORTHING					

D 

ZONE			EASTING						NORTHING					

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Dianna Kirk, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

12-9-75

STREET & NUMBER

300 West Markham

TELEPHONE

(501) 371-1639

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

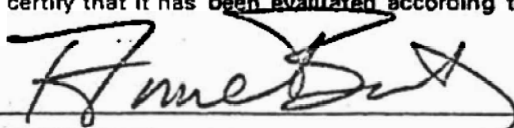
NATIONAL

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 Anne Bartley



TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

12-9-75

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

**1** NAME

HISTORIC

Cleveland County Clerk's Building

AND/OR COMMON

**2** LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Rison

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Cleveland

STATE

Arkansas

**3** PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Dianna Kirk

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

**4** IDENTIFICATION

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

west facade, viewed from the west

PHOTO NO.

1

