

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Clay County Courthouse, Eastern District

Other names/site number: Site #CY0023

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

### 2. Location

Street & number: 151 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue

City or town: Piggott State: Arkansas County: Clay

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

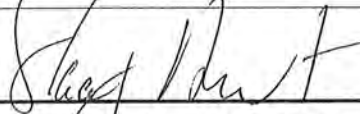
I hereby certify that this X nomination     request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets     does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

    national     statewide   X   local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

  X   A     B     C     D

	<u>7-13-18</u>
<b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<u>Arkansas Historic Preservation Program</u>	
<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	

In my opinion, the property <u>   </u> meets <u>   </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<hr/> <b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	<hr/> <b>Date</b>
<hr/> <b>Title :</b>	<hr/> <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>

Clay County Courthouse, Eastern District  
Name of Property

Clay County, Arkansas  
County and State

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	structures
<u>          </u>	<u>4</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT/courthouse

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT/courthouse

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER/New Formalism

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK, CONCRETE, TAR

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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#### Summary Paragraph

The Clay County Courthouse, Eastern District, is a one-story brick building located on the courthouse square in the commercial core of Piggott. The main entrance faces southeast and the building's façades are all symmetrical in design. The one-story building rests on a cast-concrete foundation and is topped by a flat roof. A raised section in the center of the building denotes the courtroom. The building is fenestrated by metal-frame windows throughout. The fact that the building is located on an entire city block allows for generous lawns around the courthouse. Sidewalks allow access to the rear and front entrances and a small plaza is located in front of the building's main entrance. In addition to the courthouse, the site also contains a veterans' memorial, pieces of petrified wood, a memorial to the first appointed county officials, and a gazebo.

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#### Narrative Description

The Clay County Courthouse, Eastern District, is a one-story brick building located on the courthouse square in the commercial core of Piggott. The courthouse square is bounded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue on the southeast, Court Street on the southwest, 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue on the northwest, and Main Street (U.S. 62) on the northeast. The building was designed by the architectural firm of Donnellan & Porterfield and was built by Emmett Crittenden and the Cox Lumber Company,

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Inc. The building was built in 1966-1967 and replaced the previous courthouse, which was demolished in 1966.

The main entrance faces southeast and the building's façades are all symmetrical in design. The one-story building rests on a cast-concrete foundation and is topped by a flat roof. A raised section in the center of the building denotes the courtroom. The building is fenestrated by metal-frame windows throughout. The fact that the building is located on an entire city block allows for generous lawns around the courthouse. Sidewalks allow access to the rear and front entrances and a small plaza is located in front of the building's main entrance. In addition to the courthouse, the site also contains a veterans' memorial and pieces of petrified wood near the main entrance, a memorial to the first appointed county officials at the north corner of the block, and a gazebo to the northeast of the building.

### ***Courthouse - Contributing Front/Southeast Façade***

The front façade of the building is symmetrical in its composition and is oriented around the building's main entrance. The building's entrance has two sets of metal-framed, plate-glass doors with a rectangular transom window above. In between the entrance are three large plate-glass windows with opaque panels below. There are also sets of three plate-glass windows with panels below to the outside of the entrances. The entrance and the windows that flank it are recessed from the rest of the façade. The porch has a flat roof with a zig-zag underside. The porch's roof is supported by four square columns with round can lights on the columns. Above the recessed section of the building is the southeast side of the raised section that is the courtroom. The courtroom is devoid of fenestration on the southeast side and the concrete beams divide the space into four bays.

The central section of the courthouse is flanked on each side by two projecting sections that are covered in brick. Each projecting section is decorated with nine projecting concrete fins and is devoid of fenestration. The north projecting section also has the building's cornerstone which reads "CLAY COUNTY / COURT HOUSE / EASTERN DISTRICT / ERECTED 1966." In addition, the southwest facing façade of the northern projection has the cornerstone from the previous building which reads "CLAY COUNTY / EASTERN DISTRICT / E.N. ROYALL COUNTY JUDGE / H.W. MOORE / E.J. WINTON COMMISSIONERS / W.R. MEBANE / ERECTED 1889."

### ***Side/Southwest Façade***

The southwest façade of the courthouse is also symmetrical in its arrangement. The recessed central section is fenestrated by fifteen five-pane metal-framed windows that are evenly spaced along the section of the façade. The bottom pane in each window is a hopper sash.

The central section of the southwest façade is flanked on each side by brick-faced projections. Each projection has seven projecting concrete fins. The western projection also has two southeast-facing five-pane metal-framed windows that match the other windows on the façade. The eastern projection has a pair of northwest-facing metal doors with louvered vents in the bottom half.

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Above the recessed central section is the clerestory for the central courtroom. The courtroom section has a brick base that is topped by concrete beams and roof slab that divide this part of the façade into six bays.

### ***Rear/Northwest Façade***

The building's rear façade is mostly symmetrical in its arrangement with a recessed central section. The central section is fenestrated by six metal-framed windows. All of the windows have bottom panes that are hopper sashes. Five of the six windows are five-paned windows and the sixth window (fourth from the left) is only three panes. The central windows are flanked on each side by entrances with single metal doors with windows in the top half that are flanked on each side by sidelights. Above the recessed section of the building is the southeast side of the raised section that is the courtroom. The courtroom is devoid of fenestration on the southeast side and the concrete roof beams divide the space into four bays.

The recessed central section is flanked on each side by projecting brick-faced sections of the building. Each of the brick-faced projections is devoid of fenestration and is decorated with nine projecting concrete fins.

### ***Side/Northeast Façade***

The northeast façade of the courthouse is also symmetrical in its arrangement. The recessed central section is fenestrated by fifteen five-pane metal-framed windows that are evenly spaced across the façade. The bottom pane in each window is a hopper sash. The central section of the northeast façade is flanked on each side by brick-faced projections. Each projection has seven projecting concrete fins and they are devoid of fenestration. The western projection also has a southeast-facing five-pane metal-framed window that matches the other windows on the façade.

Above the recessed central section is the clerestory for the central courtroom. The courtroom section has a brick base that is topped by concrete beams and roof slab that divide this part of the façade into six bays.

### ***Interior***

The interior arrangement of the courthouse has the central courtroom under the raised section of the building, and it is accessed off the main lobby of the building. The central courtroom is surrounded by the county offices and other secondary spaces, such as restrooms and utility spaces.

### ***Gazebo – Non Contributing***

The gazebo is located on the northeast side of the courthouse and is hexagonal in plan. It has a raised brick foundation. Square columns are located at each corner and knee braces are located at the top of each column at the cornice. Exposed brackets along the eave support the pyramidal roof. A simple wood railing with square spindles spans the outer edge of the gazebo in between the columns.

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***Monuments – Non-Contributing***

The courthouse grounds has three monuments, all of which are non-contributing due to age or the fact that they do not reflect the courthouse's significance. In front of the main entrance is a grouping of petrified wood. The eight pieces of wood are arranged in a symmetrical pattern and have a granite marker in front of them that reads "PETRIFIED WOOD / 1960 / DONOR / P.U. DENNISON // SPONSORS / PIGGOTT / LIONS CLUB." To the rear of the petrified wood, is another granite marker that reads "IN MEMORY / OF / ALL VETERANS / OF / ALL WARS / ERECTED 1970." The final marker on the courthouse grounds, which is at the north corner of the square is a granite marker that was erected by the Clay County Genealogical & Historical Society that honors the first appointed officials of Clay County.

***Integrity***

The Clay County Courthouse, Eastern District, retains excellent integrity from the time of its construction in 1966-1967. Changes to the courthouse have been minimal since it was built. The interior of the courthouse also has had minimal changes since the time of its construction in the mid-1960s. The largest changes to the courthouse site have been the installation of three memorials. However, the original New Formalism design of Donnellan & Porterfield is still present. In addition, the setting of the courthouse, the commercial core of Piggott's downtown, still reflects the setting of the courthouse at the time of its construction.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1966-1968

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1966-1967

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Donnellan & Porterfield, Architects  
Cox Lumber Company, Inc., Builder  
Emmett Crittenden, Builder

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Clay County Courthouse, Eastern District, which was designed by the firm of Donnellan & Porterfield and built in 1966-1967, is a significant example of modern architecture in Piggott. When it was built, the building was a significant departure in design from the previous Clay County Courthouse in Piggott, which was a building with Romanesque Revival influences designed in 1888 by the state's premiere architect, Charles Thompson. The current building, with its long low design and heightened central section delineating the courtroom space, and strict symmetry in the façade, illustrates influences of the New Formalism style of architecture.

Like the previous courthouse in Piggott, the current courthouse has been the center of Clay County government for the Eastern District since the time of its construction. As a result, the Clay County Courthouse, Eastern District, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A**. Although the building does continue to play a significant role in the government and politics of Clay County, the period of significance ends in 1969 due to the fact that the building's role in politics/government does not meet the threshold of exceptional significance.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

### **HISTORY OF THE PROPERTY**

Settlement began in the area that became Clay County in 1832 with the arrival of John J. Griffin, who settled along the Black River. Although few people came to the area before 1850, from 1850 until the outbreak of the Civil War settlement in the area increased tremendously. By the early 1870s, the population of the area was sufficient for the establishment of Clay County on March 24, 1873. Although it was originally called Clayton County, the name was changed to Clay County by an act of the General Assembly on December 6, 1875. The portion of the county comprising the eastern district was taken from Greene County while the western district was taken from Randolph County.<sup>1</sup>

Clay County's first county seat was established at Corning and court began on May 16, 1873. However, in 1874 the idea of moving the county seat to Boydsville, a more central location, was looked at, and after receiving a majority vote, the county seat was moved. (Because there was so much resistance to it, it was again voted on in 1877, but the result was the same.)<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northeast Arkansas*. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889, pp. 191-192.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 192.

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Although Boydsville was more centrally located, the people in the western part of the county found it hard to reach Boydsville. As a result, consideration was given to dividing the county into two districts and having two county seats. The legislature approved an act on February 23, 1881, that divided Clay County into two districts with county seats at Corning and Boydsville. (Today, the western district county seat remains at Corning, although the eastern district seat was relocated to Piggott in 1891.)<sup>3</sup>

The town of Piggott was started in 1873 when Dr. James A. Piggott and some other people from Dow, Illinois, settled near the current site of the town. Although Piggott was respected as a doctor, he was also very popular with the other residents in the area due to the fact that he was able to have a post office established in the community in 1882. During the same year, the railroad line was constructed through the area, and a town known as Huston, named after Dr. Sam Huston, grew up along the railroad line. The next year, in 1883, the town was renamed Piggott when the post office was relocated to the site of Huston. In 1891, an election named Piggott the county seat of the Eastern District of Clay County.<sup>4</sup>

By the late 1880s, Piggott was a growing, albeit still small, community, and it was described in Goodspeed's *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northeast Arkansas* as follows:

Piggott, on the St. Louis & Texas Railroad, on Section 10, Township 20, Range 8, was laid out in November, 1882. It contains two general stores, one drug store, three groceries, one cotton gin and grist-mill combined, one stave factory, one hotel, some work-shops, one school house, church and hall combined, a lodge of Odd Fellows, a post of the G. A. R., two physicians, and about 150 inhabitants.<sup>5</sup>

Piggott experienced a period of great growth after the arrival of Paul and Mary Pfeiffer from St. Louis in 1913. The Pfeiffers eventually acquired 63,000 acres of land in the Piggott area and they divided the land into farms and rented the farms to tenants that they recruited from around the country. When the Pfeiffers arrived in Piggott, the town had a courthouse square with a grand courthouse, but there were still several vacant lots around the square. The businesses that did exist in Piggott at the time were agricultural related although the downtown also boasted the Palace Hotel across from the depot.<sup>6</sup>

The improvement of U.S. 67 through Clay County during the 1920s and 1930s eased Clay County's reliance on the railroad for transportation. At the time that it was paved, U.S. 62, which is also Main Street, was the only paved street in Piggott, although other streets and

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> Hawkins, Ruth. "Piggott (Clay County)." *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. Found at: <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=851>.

<sup>5</sup> *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northeast Arkansas*. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889, pp. 194-195.

<sup>6</sup> Hawkins, Ruth. "Piggott (Clay County)." *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. Found at: <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=851>.

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sidewalks were paved with the assistance of the Works Progress Administration. Piggott also became well-known during the 1950s as the filming location for the 1957 film *A Face In the Crowd*. Director Elia Kazan and writer Budd Schulberg chose Piggott since it looked like a “bucolic small town in mid-America.” The film also marked the debut of Andy Griffith and Lee Remick and the film also starred actress Patricia Neal.<sup>7</sup>

The development of the Clay County Courthouse in Piggott was typical when compared to many courthouses across the state. The courthouse was located in the commercial heart of Piggott on a courthouse square. The first Sanborn map for the area, which was completed in 1908, illustrates that the courthouse was mostly surrounded by commercial buildings, although there was still one residence left. Surprisingly, there were several vacant lots that surrounded the courthouse square, and many still existed when the last Sanborn map was completed for Piggott in 1932.<sup>8</sup>

The previous courthouse, which was built in 1899, was designed by noted Arkansas architect Charles Thompson who designed many courthouses across the state, and his design showed some influences of the Romanesque Revival style. The brick building had a tower at one corner, and featured some arched windows on the first floor. However, by the 1960s, the building had been condemned. As was reported: “The Grand Jury had already condemned the jails and courthouse in both districts before the fire [that destroyed the courthouse in Corning]. They found the heating facilities outdated, the wiring dangerous and the ceilings and walls were damaged by weather. This report stated that the courthouse could burn at most any time and destroy many vital records. The report had no sooner been completed when the courthouse in the Western district was destroyed by fire.”<sup>9</sup> The destruction of the courthouse in Corning by fire meant that the days of the courthouse in Piggott were numbered.

The first step needed in order to replace the courthouse in Piggott was to hold an election to approve the issuance of bonds for the new courthouse’s construction. On June 14, 1962, the *Piggott Banner* reported that

The election is [sic.] for the voters to approve or disapprove the issuance of approximately \$310,000 (it being contemplated that the balance of the estimated cost will be obtained from an agency or agencies of the government of the United States) and to issue General Obligation Bonds of the County under Amendment No. 17 to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas.

...

The millage rate of the bond issue will be a sum of approximately 4 mills. Information we have is that it will be a continuing tax for probably 10 to 12 years to pay off the county’s

<sup>7</sup> Hawkins, Ruth. “Piggott (Clay County).” *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. Found at: <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=851>.

<sup>8</sup> Sanborn maps for Piggott, Arkansas, 1908, 1915, 1923, and 1932.

<sup>9</sup> “Two Courthouse and Jail Issue Face Clay County Voters July 9<sup>th</sup>,” *Clay County Courier*. 20 June 1963, p. 1.

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part; the part paid under the Government aid plan does not have to be repaid.<sup>10</sup>

The need for the new courthouse in Piggott was made clear in the *Piggott Banner* when they noted that “This report [the Grand Jury report] was a 100% ... condemnation of the deplorable condition of the present Court House and Jail here. The report in reality was a reprint of several other previous reports made by Grand Juries. The ‘heat’ was put on Judge Earnest Thomas to institute an immediate move to get the Federal Aid which was available. He complied with the request and got a project before the Government officials for the aid that could be had.” The paper further reported that “Since the Court House project for the Eastern District has been submitted, and in due time is expected to be approved by the Government, a new court house will be built, with the County paying approximately \$310,000, and the Federal Government paying virtually the same amount.”<sup>11</sup>

Editorials in the *Piggott Banner* underscored the newspaper’s opinion with respect to the need for the new courthouse in Piggott. For example, on July 5, 1963, the newspaper reported that

I would like to reepat [sic.] one thing that has been in print in the Banner time and time again – that the Courthouse and Jail (both the jail here and the one at Corning) are outdated, firetraps, and not worth the cost of repairing. The best proof of the correctness of this statement was the disastrous fire which quickly destroyed the Western District Courthouse at Corning early this year. That Courthouse and the one here were virtually identical; both over 60 years of age. ...

Our vote will be “For” all down the line. Not because we like taxes so well, but because of a badly existing need; which we feel will increase as years past, and along with it a much higher building cost.<sup>12</sup>

News reports leading up to the July vote indicated that sentiments in the county towards the construction of new courthouses were mixed. Those opposed to the proposed courthouses felt “that the courthouses, as proposed, are just too rich for the county’s blood” and further described them as “unrealistic and marble monuments and an insult to the county.” Those in favor of the construction, on the other hand, “acclaim[ed] them as a tribute to the future growth of the county, and showplaces with functional use.” The *Clay County Courier* also noted that “some observers have said that this might be the Western District’s only chance to build a courthouse and that failure of this to pass the first time would spell doom for another chance.”<sup>13</sup>

<sup>10</sup> “Court House Bond Election Called For July 9<sup>th</sup>.” *The Piggott Banner*. 14 June 1963, p. 1.

<sup>11</sup> “Why A New Court House And Jail?” *The Piggott Banner*. 21 June 1963, pp. 1-2.

<sup>12</sup> “Architect’s Drawing Shows How Proposed New Courthouse Would Look (any side).” *The Piggott Banner*. 5 July 1963, p. 1.

<sup>13</sup> “Election Is July 9.” *Clay County Courier*. 4 July 1963, p. 1.

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Even the County Judge, Judge Ernest "Buck" Thomas, wrote an editorial in the *Piggott Banner* encouraging the voters to seriously consider the proposal for the new courthouses and the county's great need to have the buildings built. In part, he wrote:

...Personally, I think the plans are very satisfactory. Certainly there could have been plans drawn for a cheaper building at both places, but would the people of the Western District or Eastern District have been satisfied with, or proud of a make-shift court house that would be obsolete in a short time.

To me, it seems much more sensible to build something that will be an asset to the community and county, and something we can be proud of. After all, we don't build a new court house every few years.

I hope the people of Clay County as a whole will give careful and earnest consideration to the proposal to be voted on July 9<sup>th</sup>.

...  
I feel that the plan before the people, to construct a nice court house at Corning, also a nice court house and jail at Piggott, is as good a plan as we could have, under existing conditions.<sup>14</sup>

Once the votes had been tallied after the July 9<sup>th</sup> election, it was found that the measure had been defeated by more than a two-to-one vote. After the special election, it was reported by the *Clay County Courier* that:

Most people in the county apparently feel that there is a definite and positive need for two courthouses, but expressed the feeling that \$600,000 structures are not warranted in a county with a sagging economy. ...

On the other hand, advocates of more spending point out that a courthouse is a "once in a lifetime" structure. They point out that it should be constructed well enough to last a lifetime and that spending additional money on the structure will reduce maintenance costs as well as satisfying future requirements.

Still others are of the opinion that one courthouse in the County should be sufficient to serve the entire county.<sup>15</sup>

Not surprisingly, the *Piggott Banner* carried similar reports. The headline in the July 12, 1963, edition of the paper noted that "Voters Say No To New Courthouses And Jail By Overwhelming Vote." The accompanying article further reported that "Clay County voters went to the polls

<sup>14</sup> "Judge Thomas Urges the Voters To Support Court Houses and Jail Issues." *The Piggott Banner*. 5 July 1963, pp. 1 and back page.

<sup>15</sup> "Clay County Voters Reject Plans To Build Courthouses and Jail." *Clay County Courier*. 11 July 1963, p. 1.

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Tuesday and left no doubt as to how they felt about taxing themselves for the construction of two new courthouses and a jail.”<sup>16</sup>

After the defeat of the proposal in July 1963, the newspaper in Piggott, as well as the newspaper in Corning, was silent on the issue until November 1965 when the *Piggott Banner* carried the headline “County-Wide Special Election On Courthouses Set For Tuesday, Dec. 21.” The article reported further that “The tentative date for a County-wide General Election on the matter of Court House (2 buildings) construction is Tuesday, Dec. 21, 1965.”<sup>17</sup>

As with the proposal put forth during the special election in 1963, the *Piggott Banner* was in favor of the 1965 proposal. Just before the election, on December 17, 1965, the newspaper noted:

The Banner has come out for the proposal. In our opinion it is a “Must,” because –

1. The Western District Courthouse was destroyed by fire and the people in that area cannot go on indefinitely under the plans that they have used to date for housing the offices.
2. The Circuit Judges have openly stated they will not continue indefinitely in having court in “make-shift” arrangements. The people at Corning have worked very hard to get a place to hold court, but none can satisfactorily replace a regular court room.
3. The vaults in the Court House for the Eastern District are badly over-crowded, and must be enlarged. The situation is acute at this time and it cannot go on this way much longer as the space is all but gone. These vaults “house” the valuable permanent records for the people of the Eastern District.
4. The proposed tax millage of 2 mills is not one that will place a prohibitive burden on any one.<sup>18</sup>

By early December, just before the election, it was reported in the *Clay County Courier* that “Architects Porterfield and Donellen [sic.] are now working on final plans for the two buildings.” It was further reported that “The courthouse in Piggott, built in 1899, is unsafe and the vaults are filled beyond capacity.”<sup>19</sup>

<sup>16</sup> Voters Say No To New Courthouses And Jail By Overwhelming Vote.” *The Piggott Banner*. 12 July 1963, p. 1.

<sup>17</sup> “County-Wide Special Election On Courthouse Set For Tuesday, Dec. 21.” *The Piggott Banner*. 12 November 1965, p. 1.

<sup>18</sup> “County Voters Go To Polls Tuesday; Special Election.” *The Piggott Banner*. 17 December 1965, p. 1.

<sup>19</sup> “Courthouse Vote Slated On Tuesday, December 21.” *Clay County Courier*. 9 December 1965, p. 1.

Clay County Courthouse, Eastern District

Clay County, Arkansas  
County and State

Name of Property

Unlike the vote on the bond issue in 1963, the vote in 1965 overwhelmingly approved the measure, although it was not unanimous in both districts. The article in the December 23, 1965, edition of the *Clay County Courier* reported:

Clay County voters, Tuesday, endorsed the \$350,000 bond issue to build two courthouses with a landslide majority. The vote was particularly heavy in the Western district where 1408 voters voted for construction of the \$120,000 building to be located in Corning. The 10 to 1 positive vote in the western district overcame the rejection of the issue by the eastern district with 671 voting for while 1341 voted against construction. Despite the political splits and factions in the eastern district, the western district vote was heavy enough to sweep victory for both sides of the county and resulted in approval of the issue which will build a \$120,000 courthouse in Corning to serve the western district and a \$180,000 courthouse to serve the eastern district.<sup>20</sup>

Once the bond issue passed in December, planning for the construction of the courthouses could go on in earnest. In late January 1966, it was reported that "County Judge Carl Ermert said that he hoped construction would start on the two county courthouses no later than June 1. Donnellen [sic.] and Porterfield plan to have detailed plans for the two buildings ready in April and bids will be taken upon approval of the detailed plans."<sup>21</sup>

When the new courthouse in Piggott was designed, the architects went in a very different direction stylistically when compared to Charles Thompson's previous design. The style that Donnellan & Porterfield chose for the Clay County Courthouse, Eastern District, shows influences of the New Formalism style that was in vogue from the mid-1950s through the mid-1970s. The style was used by three main architects, Minoru Yamasaki, Philip Johnson, and Arkansas-native Edward Durell Stone, and it was Stone's 1954 American Embassy in New Delhi, India, that is often considered to be the first example of the style. The New Formalism style combined decorative elements and design concepts from classical styles with new materials and technologies often incorporated in the International Style.<sup>22</sup>

New Formalism was most often used for cultural, institutional, and civic buildings that were high profile buildings. In Arkansas, it was most often used for banks, even in small towns, where even small branch banks may exhibit characteristics of the style. Characteristics of the style include having an achievement of modern monumentality; the use of traditionally rich materials, or man-made materials that mimic the richness of natural materials like travertine, marble, or granite; buildings set on a podium; smooth wall surfaces; an embracing of classical precedents, such as arches, colonnades, columns, and entablatures; and having a formal landscape that might use pools, fountains, and plazas.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>20</sup> "Bond Issue Passes." *Clay County Courier*. 23 December 1965, p. 1.

<sup>21</sup> "Courthouse Construction Targeted for June First." *Clay County Courier*. 27 January 1966, p. 1.

<sup>22</sup> Information on New Formalism found at: <http://www.fullertonheritage.org/Resources/archstyles/formalism.htm>.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid*.



Clay County Courthouse, Eastern District  
Name of Property

Clay County, Arkansas  
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Donnellan & Porterfield employed several New Formalism characteristics in their design for the Clay County Courthouse in Piggott. The building used cast concrete, for example, that could have been meant to mimic a more luxurious material. In front of the courthouse, the design has a small plaza with benches, and the front façade is also emphasized in the fact that it is approached by a larger number of sidewalks and employs more glass than the other façades. In addition, the fact that the courthouse took up the block and was designed with a raised center section delineating the courtroom also gave it the modern monumentality that was a hallmark of the style. Finally, the Clay County Courthouse, Eastern District, also exhibits the strict symmetrical façade that was also characteristic of the style.

Once the approval was received for the construction of the new courthouse in Piggott, the logistics of moving the county offices and demolishing the old courthouse had to occur. On April 15, 1966, the *Piggott Banner* reported:

County Offices for the Eastern District of Clay County are now located in what is known as the Roeder building, on the Northwest corner of the Square. Don Roeder purchased the property from J. W. Hamilton last year.

The building, which has a spacious front section; also has a second section just west of the main store building. The second section which faces Main Street will house the Court room.

The front section which faces Third Street will house all the County Offices: Sheriff and Collector; County Clerk, Circuit Clerk, County Treasurer, County Tax Assessor; County School Superintendent; and a small office space for the County Judge.

The Wallis Wrecking Co. of Jonesboro, has charge of tearing down the old building. This company is hopeful of completing the wrecking job and cleaning up the area within 40 days. They have two months to do the work, but say with reasonable weather can cut this time by a third.

We are advised that the glazed outside brick in the old courthouse are being offered for sale at 5¢ each, with priority given to local area purchasers (Clay County purchasers).

The architect will complete the plans by May 5, 1966. Bids are expected to all be in from 2 to 4 weeks after this date, thus getting construction under way probably in June. This same time schedule will include the new court house construction at Corning. Both courthouse bids will be offered and taken at the same time; and work go along simultaneously on the two structures, Judge Ermert said.

Clay County Courthouse, Eastern District  
Name of Property

Clay County, Arkansas  
County and State

Judge Ermert said that it was hoped that the new Courthouses here and at Corning will be ready for moving into by early spring in 1967.<sup>24</sup>

By the beginning of June 1966, the demolition of the courthouse in Piggott was underway, but not yet completed. It was reported in the *Piggott Banner* that "The actual working of tearing the building down started on or about April 12, 1966. As mentioned before the work has been halted many times by the weather. The contract with the Construction Company called for the completion of the job of tearing down and removing the debris in two months, and it appears that it will take all of the time to get the job done. When starting the company was hopeful of doing the work in 40 days."<sup>25</sup>

Another article in early June 1966 reported on what was found when the cornerstone was removed from the old courthouse. The *Piggott Banner* reported that:

In the cornerstone were found five items. They were in [a] metal box which was mostly rusted away. (A delay had to be made in identifying the papers found, as they were too water-soaked at first to handle.) The items found were:

1. A New Testament.
2. An empty Vegetable Liver Pill bottle. The bottle had been used by the J. P. Potter Drug Store of Piggott and Corning.
3. A copy of a newspaper "Gospel Advocate," a religious publication printed at Nashville, Tenn. This paper was dated June 29, 1899.
4. A copy of a newspaper: "AOUW Lodge paper" dated Sept. 1, 1890. This paper was printed at Bentonville, Ark.
5. A copy of a newspaper "The Apostolic Primitive Baptist," a religious publication dated Sept. 4, 1899. It was printed at Martin, Tenn.

...It was a surprise and disappointment too, to everyone, that the old cornerstone contained no historical records. And as a further surprise, that two of the papers found were religious publications; and the other one a fraternal paper. No one is attempting to explain the presence of the pill bottle. ...<sup>26</sup>

Although the target date for the beginning of the construction of the courthouses was June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1966, construction was delayed. It was reported in the *Piggott Banner* on July 1, 1966, that:

<sup>24</sup> "Started Wrecking Old Courthouse Monday." *The Piggott Banner*. 15 April 1966, p. 1.

<sup>25</sup> "Going, Going, Gone! (almost that is)." *The Piggott Banner*. 3 June 1966, p. 1.

<sup>26</sup> "What Was Found In The Courthouse Cornerstone?" *The Piggott Banner*. 10 June 1966, p. 1.

Clay County Courthouse, Eastern District  
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On June 24, County Judge Carl L. Ermert and the County Court House Committee received bids for the construction of two court houses in Clay County.

Cox Planing Mill and Lumber Co. of Piggott, was the low bidder for the construction project. Both courthouses were let under the same bid. The total cost of the two buildings is \$334,449.00. This contract includes the construction of the two buildings, heating, complete air conditioning, plumbing, furnishing courtrooms, and counters and desks for county offices.

The contractor is allowed 400 calendar days for completion of both buildings. The contract price also includes a drive and walks for the Piggott Courthouse.

The contractor has started as per Monday making preparations for the construction project. Both courthouses will be started and finished at approximately the same time.

The Courthouse Committee is as follows: Attorney Gus Camp, Mr. Ray Winton and Mr. Delaine Campbell of Piggott; Mr. Bert Sigsby, Rector; and Attorney Bryan McCallen and Mr. Ben Laker of Corning.

Architects are Donnellan and Porterfield of Poplar Bluff, Mo.<sup>27</sup>

Interestingly, once the bids were let for the construction of the courthouse in Piggott, the *Piggott Banner* didn't provide any additional reporting on the construction of the building until September 8, 1967, when a photograph of the nearly-completed building appeared on the front page of the newspaper. The caption of the photograph reads: "OPENING SCHEDULED SOON – The Eastern District Courthouse in Piggott is nearing completion. In today's Banner are photos of the new structure and of the county officials as well as congratulatory ads from those who have had a part in the construction of the new building."<sup>28</sup>

Once the new courthouse in Piggott was finished, a celebration to dedicate both of the new courthouses was scheduled for Friday, October 20, 1967. Corning's courthouse would be dedicated in the morning while the courthouse in Piggott would be dedicated in the afternoon. The schedule for Piggott's courthouse celebration, as reported in the *Piggott Banner*, was:

Dedication ceremonies for the two new courthouses in Clay County are scheduled Friday (Oct. 20) at 11 a.m. in Corning and 1:30 p.m. in Piggott.

The Honorable Carlton Harris, Chief Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court, will be principal speaker for the dedications.

<sup>27</sup> "Cox Lumber Company Low Bidder; Courthouse Construction Project." *The Piggott Banner*. 1 July 1966, p. 1.

<sup>28</sup> Photograph of the nearly-completed courthouse. *The Piggott Banner*. 8 September 1967, p. 1.

Clay County Courthouse, Eastern District  
Name of Property

Clay County, Arkansas  
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Opening the Piggott ceremonies will be the presentation of the colors by the Boy Scouts, the invocation by First Baptist minister Kenneth Threet, and an introduction of guests by the master of ceremonies, Gus Camp.

Clay County Judge Carl Ermert will then present a brief history of the county.

After Harris' talk, an open house, building tours and refreshment await those attending.<sup>29</sup>

Surprisingly, the *Piggott Banner* didn't provide any follow-up article on the courthouse's dedication so it is not known, as in Corning, how many attended the dedication or what type of remarks Chief Justice Harris gave at the dedication.

Since its dedication in 1967, the Clay County Courthouse, Eastern District, has been an important part of the county's government. As the main court and office building for the eastern part of Clay County, the Clay County Courthouse, Eastern District, represents the center of county government for the area. The Clay County Courthouse, Eastern District, also represents a good example of a building illustrating the influences of the New Formalism style of architecture. Since its dedication in 1967 the Clay County Courthouse in Piggott has remained an important part of the county's architectural heritage.

### **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPERTY**

After World War II, especially during the 1950s, the International style was often the choice for civic and commercial buildings. However, when Arkansas native Edward Durell Stone designed the American embassy in New Delhi, India, in 1954, he did not feel that the International style was appropriate for the building. Rather, he executed a twist of classical elements that used the modern materials and technologies that had been employed in the International style, and New Formalism was born. As Virginia McAlester writes in the second edition of *A Field Guide to American Houses*:

...New Formalism concentrated on updating, rather than re-creating, Classical forms, providing a visible and theoretic distinction from the Neoclassical style. An overall massiveness is achieved through a concrete-block-like structure set on an elevation and typically crowned with a flat slab roof. Wall surfaces, commonly made of stone, brick, and marble, are normally smooth and unadorned; columns generally take on a slender and attenuated form.<sup>30</sup>

When the Clay County Courthouse, Eastern District, was built, it represented a new direction in the architecture of downtown Piggott. Most of the other buildings in downtown Piggott were

<sup>29</sup> "Courthouse Dedication." *The Piggott Banner*. 20 October 1967, p. 1.

<sup>30</sup> McAlester, Virginia Savage. *A Field Guide to American Houses, Second Edition*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2013, p. 664.

Clay County Courthouse, Eastern District

Clay County, Arkansas  
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Name of Property

late nineteenth or early twentieth century commercial buildings exhibiting vernacular commercial styles of the era. Even today, New Formalism architecture in Piggott is rare, and the Clay County Courthouse is the only civic example of the style.

The Clay County Courthouse in Piggott designed by Donnellan & Porterfield employed several New Formalism characteristics in its design. The building used cast concrete, for example, that could have been meant to mimic a more luxurious material, and the cast concrete also enhances the look of the building's flat-slab roof. In front of the courthouse, the small formal plaza with benches, planters, and several sidewalks is also a characteristic of the style and its formal composition. The Clay County Courthouse in Piggott also reflects New Formalism's hallmark characteristic monumentality through its raised center section delineating the courtroom. Finally, the Clay County Courthouse, Eastern District, also exhibits the strict symmetrical façade that was also characteristic of New Formalism.

Although the building went in a very different direction architecturally from the previous courthouse, the Clay County Courthouse in Piggott, like the previous courthouse, has been significant in the politics and government of Clay County's Eastern District, a role that it continues to play today. The residents of the Eastern District continue to conduct their county business at the Clay County Courthouse, Eastern District. Due to the fact that it plays a significant role in the politics and government of Clay County, the Clay County Courthouse, Eastern District, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A**.

Clay County Courthouse, Eastern District  
Name of Property

Clay County, Arkansas  
County and State

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

“Architect’s Drawing Shows How Proposed New Courthouse Would Look (any side).” *The Piggott Banner*. 5 July 1963, p. 1.

*Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northeast Arkansas*. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889.

“Bond Issue Passes.” *Clay County Courier*. 23 December 1965, p. 1.

“Clay County Voters Reject Plans To Build Courthouses and Jail.” *Clay County Courier*. 11 July 1963, p. 1.

“Construction Scheduled To Start In June On New Courthouses.” *The Piggott Banner*. 4 February 1966, p. 1.

“County Voters Go To Polls Tuesday; Special Election.” *The Piggott Banner*. 17 December 1965, p. 1.

“County-Wide Special Election On Courthouse Set For Tuesday, Dec. 21.” *The Piggott Banner*. 12 November 1965, p. 1.

“Court House Bond Election Called For July 9<sup>th</sup>.” *The Piggott Banner*. 14 June 1963, p. 1.

“Courthouse Construction Targeted for June First.” *Clay County Courier*. 27 January 1966, p. 1.

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“Courthouse Vote Slated On Tuesday, December 21.” *Clay County Courier*. 9 December 1965, p. 1.

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Hawkins, Ruth. “Piggott (Clay County).” *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. Found at: <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=851>.

Clay County Courthouse, Eastern District  
Name of Property

Clay County, Arkansas  
County and State

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<http://www.fullertonheritage.org/Resources/archstyles/formalism.htm>.

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McAlester, Virginia Savage. *A Field Guide to American Houses, Second Edition*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2013.

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Sanborn maps for Piggott, Arkansas, 1908, 1915, 1923, and 1932.

“Started Wrecking Old Courthouse Monday.” *The Piggott Banner*. 15 April 1966, p. 1.

“Two Courthouse and Jail Issue Face Clay County Voters July 9<sup>th</sup>.” *Clay County Courier*. 20 June 1963, p. 1.

Voters Say No To New Courthouses And Jail By Overwhelming Vote.” *The Piggott Banner*. 12 July 1963, p. 1.

“What Was Found In The Courthouse Cornerstone?” *The Piggott Banner*. 10 June 1966, p. 1.

“Why A New Court House And Jail?” *The Piggott Banner*. 21 June 1963, pp. 1-2.

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University

Clay County Courthouse, Eastern District  
Name of Property

Clay County, Arkansas  
County and State

Other  
Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** CY0023

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### 10. Geographical Data

**Acreeage of Property** Approximately 2.4 acres.

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

#### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

**Or**

#### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |             |                 |                   |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 15 | Easting: 751842 | Northing: 4030028 |
| 2. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 3. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 4. Zone:    | Easting :       | Northing:         |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Block 5 of the Throgmorton's Second Addition to the City of Piggott, Arkansas.



Clay County Courthouse, Eastern District  
Name of Property

Clay County, Arkansas  
County and State

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This boundary contains all of the property historically associated with the property.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator  
organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
street & number: 1100 North Street  
city or town: Little Rock state: AR zip code: 72201  
e-mail: ralph.wilcox@arkansas.gov  
telephone: (501) 324-9787  
date: \*\*\*\*\*

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Clay County Courthouse, Eastern District

City or Vicinity: Piggott

Clay County Courthouse, Eastern District

Clay County, Arkansas  
County and State

Name of Property

County: Clay County

State: Arkansas

Photographer: Mason Toms

Date Photographed: April 25, 2017

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 17 . Southeast façade of the courthouse, looking northwest.
- 2 of 17 . Southeast façade of the courthouse, looking north.
- 3 of 17 . Detail of the main entrance on the southeast façade, looking west.
- 4 of 17 . Southwest façade of the courthouse, looking east.
- 5 of 17 . Southwest façade of the courthouse, looking northwest.
- 6 of 17 . Northwest façade of the courthouse, looking southeast.
- 7 of 17 . Northwest façade of the courthouse, looking east.
- 8 of 17 . Detail of the concrete fins on the northwest façade of the courthouse, looking east.
- 9 of 17 . Northeast façade of the courthouse, looking west.
- 10 of 17 . Cornerstone of the previous courthouse to the north of the main entrance, looking northeast.
- 11 of 17 . Cornerstone of the courthouse to the north of the main entrance, looking northwest.
- 12 of 17 . Plaque in the lobby of the courthouse commemorating its construction, looking northwest.
- 13 of 17 . Plaque in the lobby of the courthouse commemorating the first county officials to occupy the building, looking northwest.
- 14 of 17 . Petrified wood outside the main entrance of the courthouse, looking northwest.
- 15 of 17 . Veterans' memorial outside the main entrance of the courthouse, looking northwest.

Clay County Courthouse, Eastern District  
Name of Property

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16 of 17 . Marker on the courthouse grounds that commemorates the first appointed county officials, looking south.

17 of 17 . View of the gazebo on the courthouse grounds, looking northeast.

Clay County Courthouse, Eastern District  
Name of Property

Clay County, Arkansas  
County and State



Figure 1: Rendering of the Clay County Courthouse, Eastern District. From the *Clay County Courier*, 9 December 1965, p. 1.

Clay County Courthouse, Eastern District  
Name of Property

Clay County, Arkansas  
County and State



Figure 1: Photograph of the Clay County Courthouse, Eastern District, in the spring of 1967, looking northwest. From the *Clay County Times-Democrat*. Found at: <http://www.cctimesdemocrat.com/gallery/2859>.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



|-----297 feet-----|

Clay County Courthouse, Eastern District  
Piggott, Clay County, Arkansas

15 751842E 4030028N



North



|-----1114 feet-----|

Clay County Courthouse, Eastern District  
Piggott, Clay County, Arkansas

15 751842E 4030028N



North









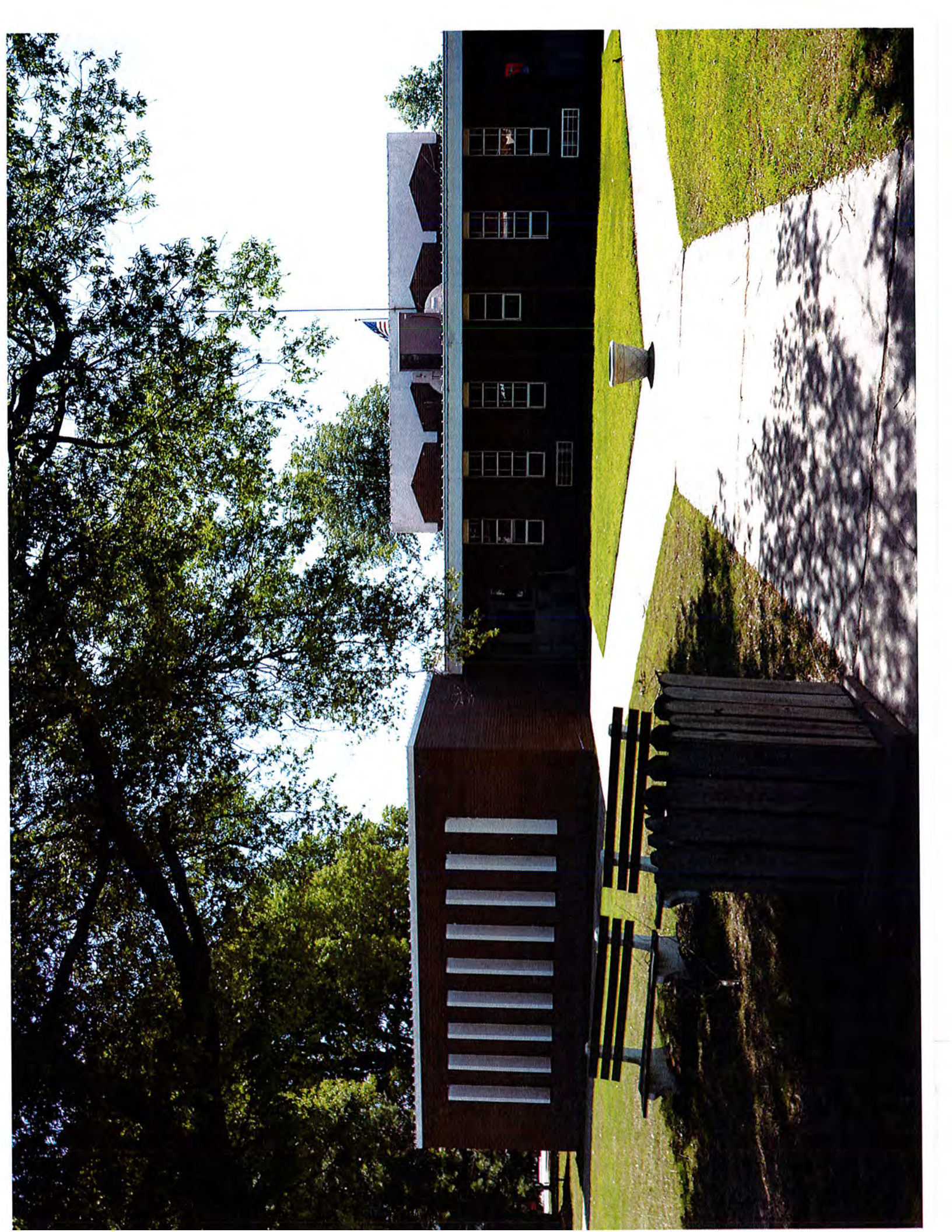


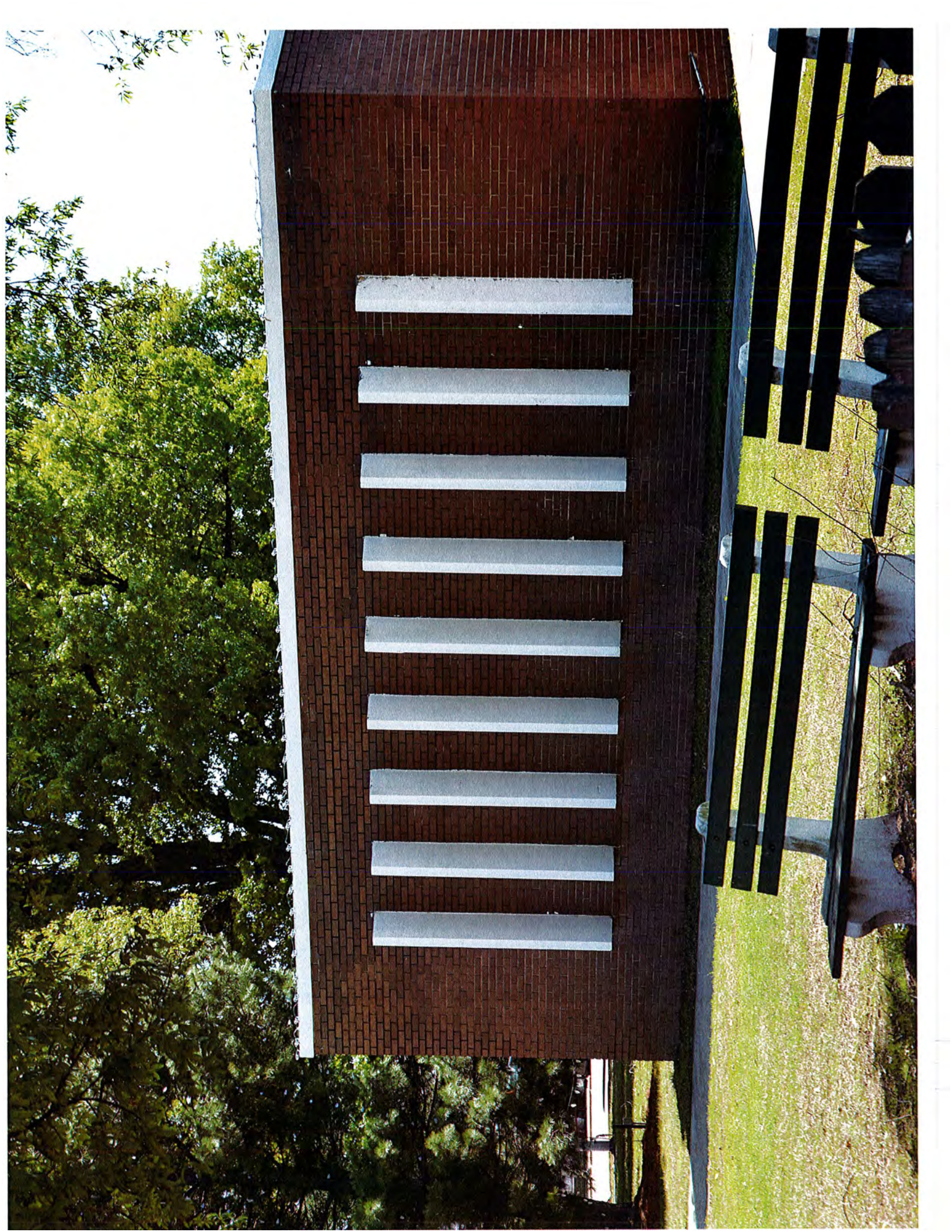


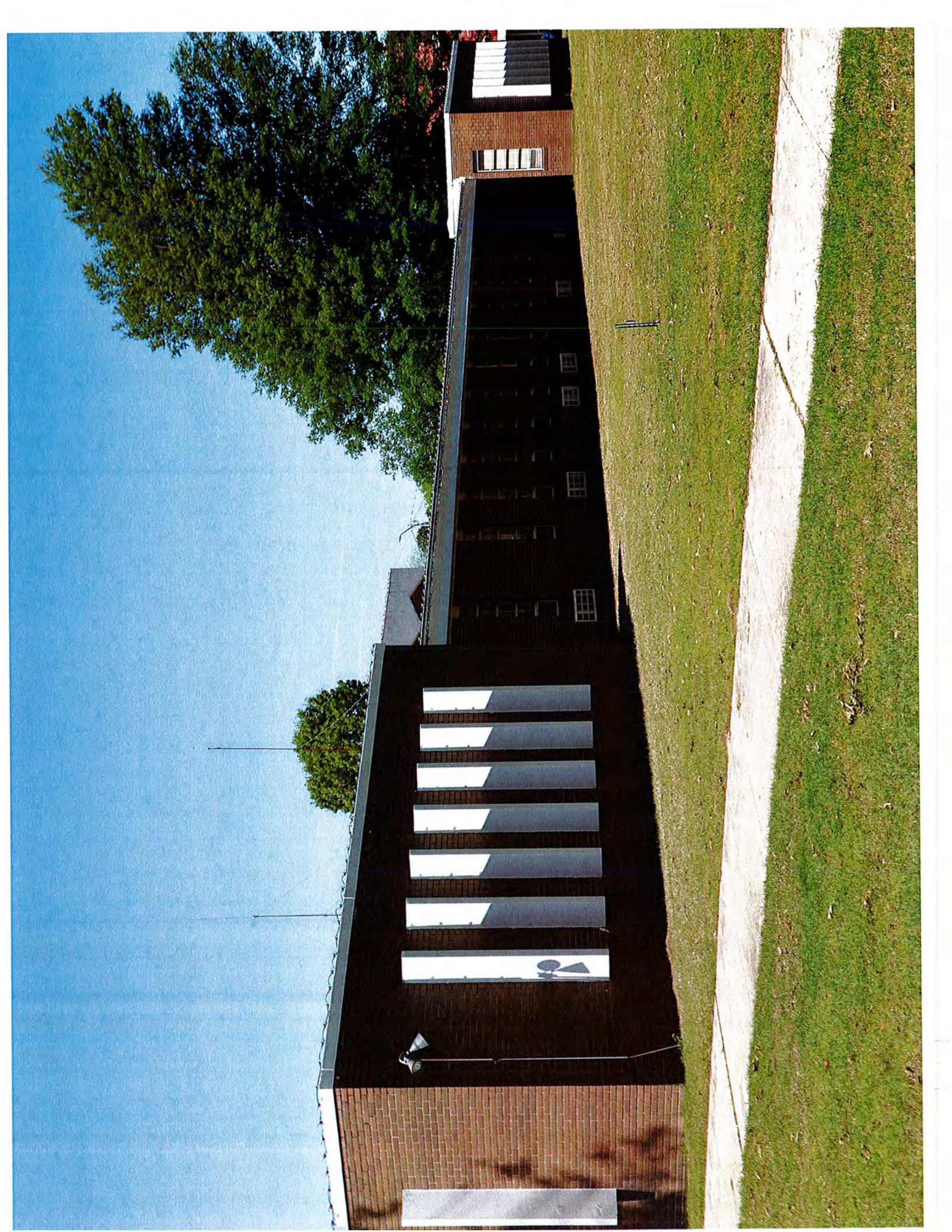
County Clerk

Public











CLAY COUNTY

EASTERN DISTRICT

COUNTY JUDGE

COMMISSIONERS

CLAY

F. W. ROYALL

H. W. MOORE

E. J. WINTON

W. P. MEBANE

SELECTED

1890

CLAY COUNTY  
COURT HOUSE  
EASTERN DISTRICT  
ERECTED 1966

CLAY COUNTY  
COURT HOUSE  
EASTERN  
DISTRICT

1  
9  
6  
6

COUNTY JUDGE

CARL L. ERMERT

COURT HOUSE COMMITTEE

GUS R. CAMP  
J. D. CAMPBELL  
A. R. WINTON

ARCHITECT

DONNELLAN & PORTERFIELD

CONTRACTOR

COX LUMBER COMPANY, INC.  
AND  
EMMETT CRITTENDEN

# FIRST COUNTY OFFICIALS TO OCCUPY NEW COURT HOUSE 1967 - 1968

JUDGE

CARL ERMERT

SHERIFF

BURNESS W. DALTON

CLERK

BOYCE MCLESKEY

CIRCUIT CLERK

DOUG BATEY

TREASURER

E. P. (PINKNEY) SEAY

ASSESSOR

VERNON MORGAN

SUPT. OF SCHOOLS

L. D. ROBINSON

## DEPUTIES

SHERIFF

LIDDELL JONES - TROY HOWELL

CLERK

JANE BERRY - MAGGIE BRYAN

CIRCUIT CLERK

CERLDENE LANG

TREASURER

REUBEN SEAY

ASSESSOR

MRS. VERNON MORGAN

SUPT. OF SCHOOLS

HELOISE KELLEY

COLLECTOR

MRS. AMANDA DALTON

DEPUTY COLLECTOR

MRS. LOU EDWARDS

EASTERN DISTRICT



PETRIFIED WOOD  
1960  
DONOR  
P. U. DENNISON  
SPONSORS  
PIGGOTT  
LIONS CLUB

OF  
ALL WARS

ERECTED 1970



IN MEMORY  
OF  
ALL VETERANS  
OF  
ALL WARS

ERECTED 1970





1873-1874

FIRST APPOINTED OFFICIALS  
OF

CLAYTON COUNTY - LATER  
CLAY COUNTY, AR

THOMAS MARION HOLIFIELD  
COUNTY JUDGE 1874-1878

WILLIAM G. AKERS  
COUNTY SHERIFF 1873-1874

WILLIAM LIDDELL  
COUNTY TREASURER 1873-1874

F.M. MARTIN  
COUNTY & CIRCUIT COURT CLERK 1873-1874

E.N. ROYALL  
COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR 1873-1874

W.C. GRIMSLEY  
COUNTY SURVEYOR 1874-1878

J. CUNNINGHAM  
COUNTY CORONER 1873-1874

CCC & HS

