

NR LISTED

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

OCT 17 1997

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

AHPP

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1. Name of Property

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Historic Name: Drew County Courthouse

Other Name/Site Number: DR 0162

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2. Location

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Street & Number: 210 S. Main St.

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Monticello

Vicinity: N/A

State: AR

County: Drew

Code: AR 043

Zip Code: 71655

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Public-local

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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County and State

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification
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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. _____ See continuation sheet.)

Cathryn A. Sater _____ 8-29-97
Signature of certifying official Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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5. National Park Service Certification
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I, hereby certify that this property is:

- _____ entered in the National Register _____
_____ See continuation sheet.
- _____ determined eligible for the _____
National Register _____
- _____ See continuation sheet.
- _____ determined not eligible for the _____
National Register _____
- _____ removed from the National Register _____
- _____ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper. Date of Action

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6. Function or Use

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Historic: Government Sub: Courthouse

Current : Government Sub: Courthouse

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Other: Classical Moderne

Materials: foundation Concrete roof Asphalt
walls Limestone other Metal

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

Summary

Constructed in 1932, the Drew County Courthouse is an L-shaped, three-and-one-half story limestone structure designed by the architect, H. Ray Burks, in the Classical Moderne style. Prominent exterior details include six Ionic pilasters on the front facade, classical window treatment, and Art Deco-inspired ironwork. The interior is largely unaltered and features stylized iron Art Moderne balustrades and light fixtures, stone floors and stone wainscoting. Located at 210 South Main in downtown Monticello, the courthouse is in good condition.

Elaboration

Designed by the architect H. Ray Burks, the Drew County Courthouse was constructed in 1932 as a three-and-one-half story limestone structure. The courthouse is L-shaped in plan, rests on a continuous concrete foundation and is covered with a flat built-up tar roof. The main entrance to the building is located on the eastern elevation which is composed of a tall, central, three-and-one-half story block which is symmetrically-flanked by the two projecting wings. This facade is symmetrically organized overall, with each of the projecting wings divided into a single window bay on each floor while the central block is divided into five principal bays which are separated by tall stone Ionic pilasters. The windows on the projecting bays are primarily

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Five light casement windows, while the windows on the central block are paired one-over-one, double-hung sashes with a central block of casement windows over the entrance area. All of the windows on the other elevations are one-over-one double-hung windows with the exception being the casement windows located on the upper levels over the entrance areas on the north and south elevations. Although the massing of the building is Art Deco in manner, the primary decorative features on the courthouse are classical - the six Ionic pilasters which span the full three-and-one-half stories of the center portion of the eastern facade are the dominant aesthetic of the building, and are surmounted by a rectangular pediment which reads "Drew County Courthouse," flanked by the date of construction, "1932".

Other classically-inspired elements include the decorative treatments around the entrance area and on the projecting window surrounds at either end of the eastern elevation. The double-leaf entrance is located between the pilasters at the center of this elevation and is surmounted by decorative scroll brackets which support a projecting lintel and a stylized shield which is inscribed with the date "1932" and is flanked by a cornucopia on either side. A multi-light transom window is located above the entrance doors below this decorative projecting lintel section. The two-story projecting window surrounds at either end of this elevation are topped with other carved stone stylized detailing. Each surround is denoted by stylized pilasters which support a simple frieze and cornice. The cornice supports a pair of urns as well as a center stylized shield approximately the same size as the one at the main entrance although simpler in form. A stylized relief is also located between the windows on these surrounds. Other decorative features on this elevation include a stone balustrade which surrounds a landing located in front of the center section of this facade. All of the decorative stonework on the Drew County Courthouse appears to have been carved out of the same limestone used for the wall surfaces. Decorative elements seen on the facade which may be termed Art Deco or Art Moderne in inspiration include four ironwork balustrades featuring an abstract decorative pattern which are located between the large pilasters above the first level.

The rear, or western elevation is composed of three sections - a small, projecting section containing a pair of windows at each level at the northern end, the center section which is fenestrated at each level by three paired windows and a single window at the southern corner with a single-leaf entry below, and a large projection at the southern end which forms the L-extension. This large projection contains two windows at each level on the north and south sides, and a single-leaf entry at the center of the west end. While there is no ornamentation on this elevation, the entrance level projects out slightly further than the other wall surfaces which adds visual interest to the unadorned cut-stone wall surface. This elevation also contains a recent metal fire-escape at the northern end.

The southern elevation is basically three bays in width with another bay of paired windows located on the south side of the L-extension which is recessed from the main block at the eastern end. Decorative detailing is focused around the entrance area. The double-leaf entrance, and the five-light casement above it, are enclosed in a projecting section which is capped by a

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projecting cornice and a simple rectangular pediment which contains a stylized sunburst relief at each end. An iron balustrade, similar to that seen on the eastern elevation, is located above the entry within this surround. A metal entrance light projects out above the doors. The casement window above this central entrance projection is two-stories in height and is surmounted by simple scroll brackets supporting a projecting lintel. While the northern elevation is identical to the opposite facade (without the section formed by the L-extension), the decorative detailing differs in one respect - the two-story casement window of the southern elevation is divided here on the north end.

The interior contains many features which are original to the date of construction. These include stylized iron Art Moderne balustrades and light fixtures, stone floors and stone wainscoting. A stone plaque bearing the names of those involved with the construction of the courthouse is surmounted by a broken pediment and an urn and flanked by scroll brackets in the classical manner of the exterior.

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8. Statement of Significance
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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1932

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Burks, H. Ray, Architect
Hewitt and Russell, Builders

ate significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Summary

Designed by the architect H. Ray Burks, and constructed in 1932 by the contractors Hewitt and Russell, the Drew County Courthouse is locally significant under Criterion C by virtue of its status as the most striking example of the Classical Moderne idiom in Monticello and all of Drew County.

Historical Background

Drew County was created by the state legislature on November 26, 1846 from part of Bradley County and was named for Thomas S. Drew, then governor of the state. According to Dallas T. Herndon in his *Centennial History of Arkansas*, the first county court was held in the house of Alexander M. Rawles on March 22, 1847. The following year, the court met at the Rodgers School in the community of "Rough and Ready," which was located on a broad hilltop about one mile south of present-day Monticello. In 1849, three commissioners were appointed to select a site for a permanent county seat. An eighty-three acre tract was deeded to the county by Fountain C. Austin, and the town of Monticello, said to be named for Jefferson's residence in Virginia, was platted. The first term of court in Monticello was held in October, 1850.

The current Drew County Courthouse is the fourth constructed by the people of the county. The first three were constructed in 1851, 1856-57, and 1870-71. The courthouses that preceded the present building varied in size and type of construction. The first courthouse was a frame building forty feet wide, sixty-five feet deep and two stories high, that cost less than \$5,300. The third courthouse cost \$48,620 and was brick with a 110 feet high tower with a four-dial clock.

The Drew County Courthouse earned mention in the 1941 *Arkansas: A Guide to the State* by the Workers of the Writer's Program. The book did, however, incorrectly describe the courthouse as a ". . . four-story, flat-topped building (with) six Corinthian columns set into the facade."

Architectural Significance

H. Ray Burks designed at least three other courthouses in Arkansas: the Lonoke County Courthouse (1929), the Pope County Courthouse (1931), and the Arkansas County Courthouse (1932). Of the three, the Lonoke County Courthouse is the most classical in appearance with four large columns, arched windows and classical relief panels. The Pope and Arkansas County Courthouses essentially share the same massing as the Drew County Courthouse; however, the classical element is minimized and the Art Deco aspects predominate on both.

The Drew County Courthouse is being nominated under Criterion C with local

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ignificance as the best example of a building designed in the Classical Moderne style in the area.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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DeArmond, Rebecca. *Old Times Not Forgotten: A History of Drew County.* Little Rock: Rose Publishing Co., 1980.

Herndon, Dallas T. *Annals of Arkansas.* Little Rock: The Historical Record Association, 1947.

Herndon, Dallas T. *Centennial History of Arkansas.* Chicago-Little Rock: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1922.

Workers of the Writer's Program. *The WPA Guide to 1930s Arkansas, with new introduction by Elliot West.* Lawrence, Kansas: The University Press, 1987 (originally published by Hastings House in 1941 under the title *Arkansas: A Guide to the State*). p. 280

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Approximately 2.5

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>612100</u>	<u>3721220</u>	B	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
C	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	D	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Verbal Boundary Description:

The property encompassing the Drew County Courthouse is a rectangular parcel, approximately 300 feet by 350 feet, as defined by the U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute map, Monticello North quadrangle. The northeast corner of the boundary is approximately 150 feet from the northeast corner of the courthouse, and the southwest corner is also approximately 150 feet from the southwest corner of the courthouse.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary includes the courthouse and all of the property historically associated with this resource.

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11. Form Prepared By

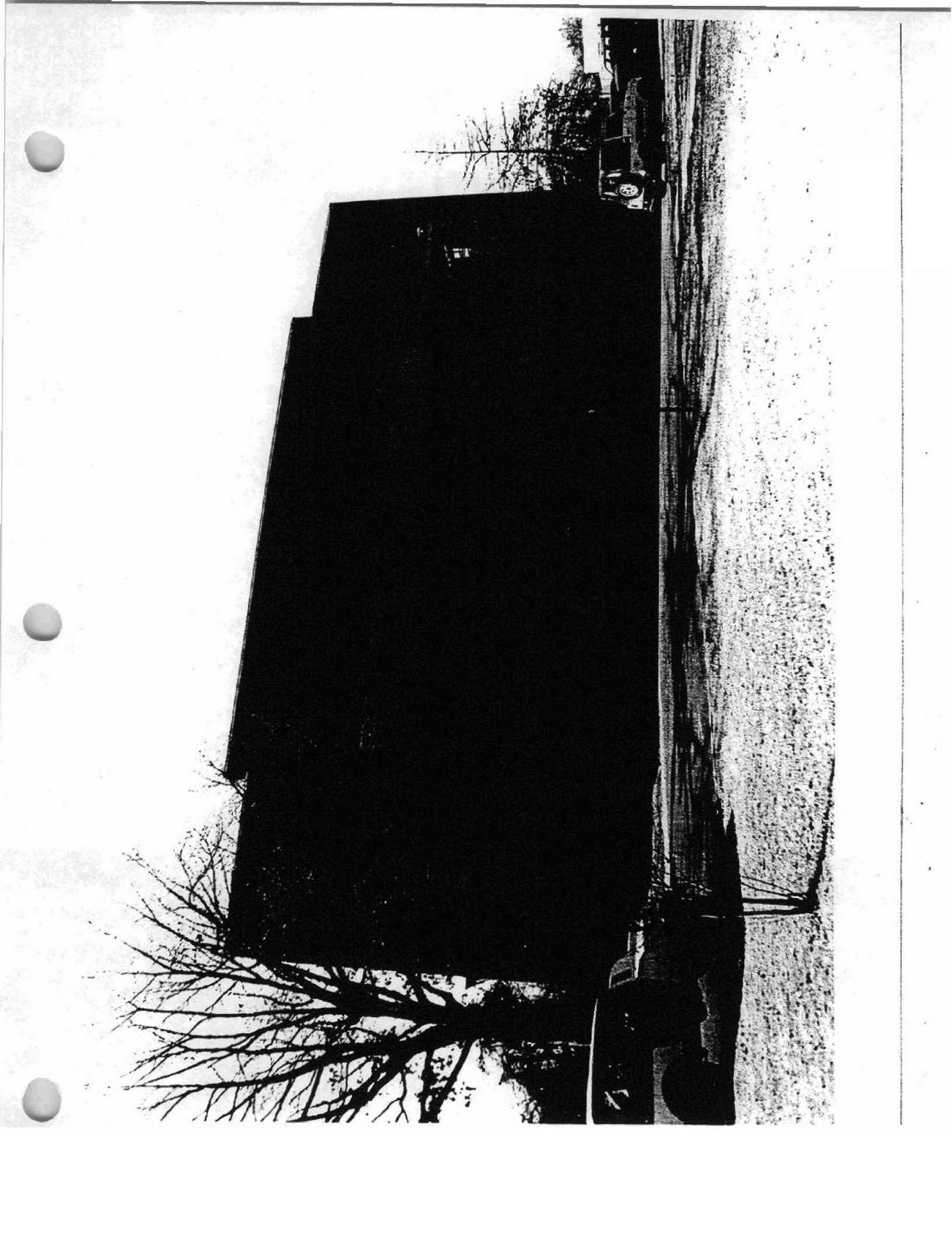
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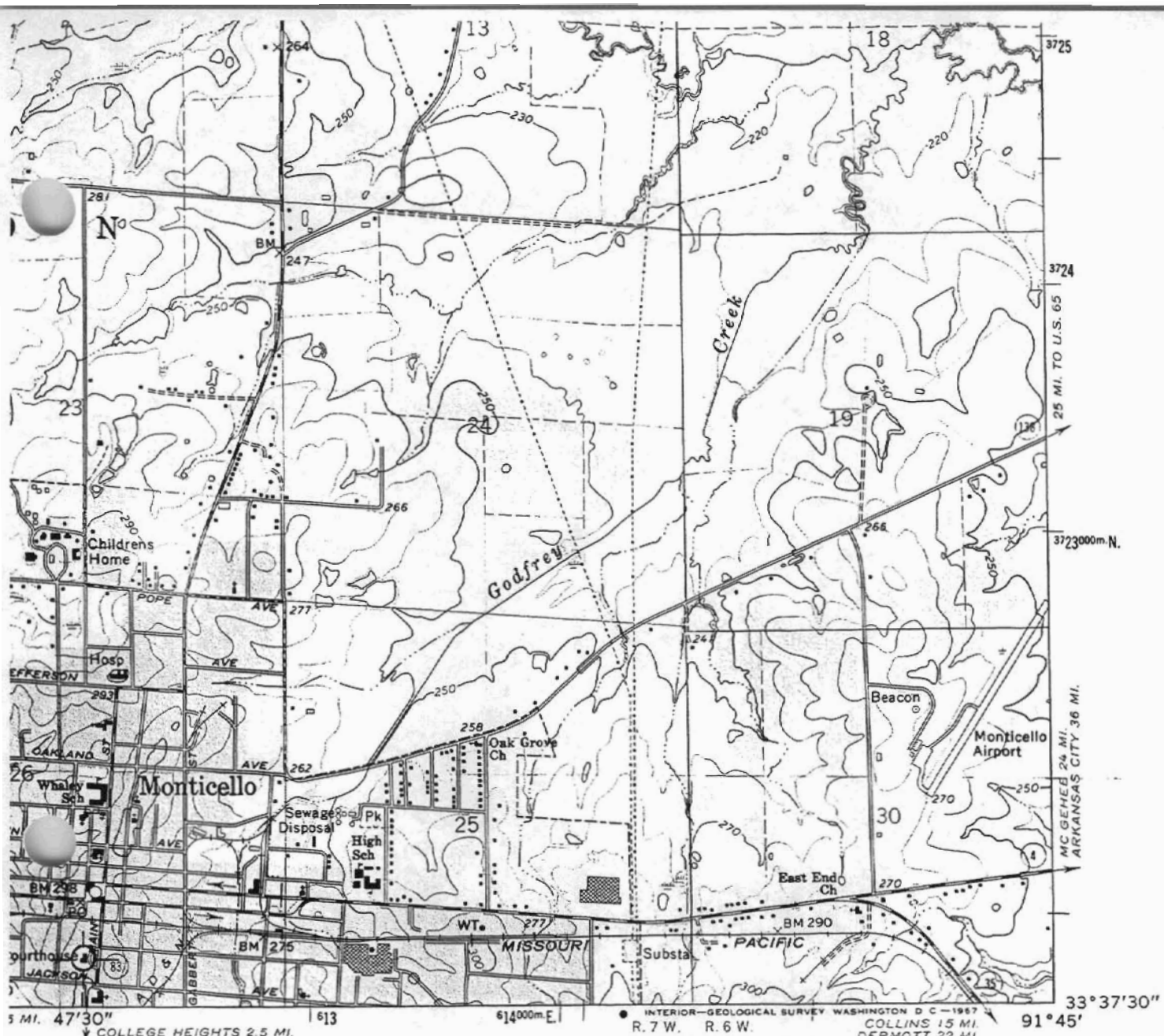
Name/Title: Helen Barry, National Register Historian
Beth Delaney, Intern

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: May 30, 1997

Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201





MILE
 DREN County, Arkansas
 DREN County
 Arkansas
 15/6/11 2701000



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
 Medium-duty ————— Light-duty —————
 Unimproved dirt - - - - -
 ○ State Route

MONTICELLO NORTH, ARK.
 N3337.5—W9145.7.5

1966

AMS 7651 III NE—SERIES V884

(COMINTO)
 7651 11 SW

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