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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NOV 27 1995

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

AHPP

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1. Name of Property

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historic name: Faulkner County Courthouse

other name/site number: N/A

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2. Location

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street & number: 801 Locust Street

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Conway

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Faulkner code: AR 045 zip code: 72032

3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Public-local

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>2</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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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 Slater _____ 10-10-95 _____
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:

Colonial Revival

Art Deco

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation Brick/concrete roof Asphalt
walls Brick/concrete other Brick chimney

Describe present and historic physical appearance. ___ See continuation sheet.

Summary

The Faulkner County Courthouse is a four-story, buff brick and reinforced concrete masonry courthouse building designed in a synthesis of the Colonial Revival and Art Deco styles. Its floor plan is "H"-shaped and symmetrical, with the front entrance located at the center of its eastern elevation. The building also contains a partial basement.

Elaboration

The Faulkner County Courthouse is a four-story, buff brick and reinforced concrete masonry courthouse building designed in a synthesis of the Colonial Revival and Art Deco styles. Its floor plan is "H"-shaped and symmetrical, with the front entrance located at the center of its eastern elevation. The built-up tar roof, and brick and reinforced concrete walls rest upon a continuous, reinforced concrete foundation, faced with brick. The building also contains a partial basement.

The eastern or front elevation is composed of the tall, central, four-story block symmetrically-flanked by the two projecting wings that form the "H"-shaped plan. The facade is symmetrically organized overall, with each of the projecting wings divided into three window bays on each floor and the central block divided into five principal bays, separated on the courtroom level by attached Classical pilasters (the jail space on the fourth story is divided into seven window bays). The windows on the projecting wings are uniformly six-over-six wood sash. The first floor windows on the central block are paired four-over-four wood windows, while the large arched windows lighting the courtroom on the second story are each formed by six sets of ten-pane casement windows set in two ascending rows of three each, and capped with an arched fourteen-pane fanlight window. The window openings in the fourth-story jail section are filled with metal security bars.

The northern and southern ends are virtually identical. The central projecting bay on each contains two first-story windows on the northern elevation and a double-leaf bay on the southern elevation; otherwise each central bay is fenestrated with two windows on each of the second and third stories, and the flanking wall sections are each fenestrated with three

windows per floor on all floors.

The western elevation is fenestrated in similar fashion to that opposite, the only exceptions being the use of casement windows on the first floor of the central block and the fact that the two large additions to the building -- the 1970's jail addition and the 1993 office addition -- are both attached here.

The significant exterior details include the Classical pilasters on the front; the tall, arched fanlight windows that light the courtroom on the eastern elevation and an interior hallway on the western elevation; the rustication pattern on the first story; and the corner quoins found throughout. Of particular note is the large Classical entrance entablature on the front elevation. It is supported upon attached pilasters and enframes a plaque that identifies the county judge, the county commissioner, the county attorneys and the architect, the Little Rock firm of Wittenberg and Deloney.

The interior is finished in the standard materials of the period: plaster walls, brown and cream tone ceramic tiles, and heavy plaster moldings in the courtroom itself.

The two large rear additions constitute the principal alterations to the building; however, it should be noted that only one is actually attached to the building, and that only by an enclosed glass walkway. The original 1936 building remains largely untouched and intact.

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: 1936

Significant Dates: 1936

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Wittenberg and Delony

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.
___ See continuation sheet.

Summary

Criterion C, local significance

The Faulkner County Courthouse is locally significant by virtue of its status as the finest example in the county of this unusual combination of the Colonial Revival and Art Deco styles. Such details as the rusticated first floor, the corner quoins, the raised pilasters and the arched courtroom windows testify to the influence of the American Colonial, while the heavy, symmetrical overall massing and setback of the fourth story reflect the sway of the more recent Art Deco idiom.

Elaboration

The town of "Conway Station" was laid out and platted by Colonel Asa Peter Robinson, a Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad official who in 1871 was granted a section of land of his own choice by the railroad on which to build a town. By 1873 Conway became the Faulkner County seat and a prosperous railroad town (now served by the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad after the demise of the Little Rock and Ft. Smith Railroad) in the midst of rich farming country. It was incorporated on October 9, 1875, and quickly grew into a bustling city, primarily due to its being an important regional hub for the surrounding farmers. Conway served the regional agricultural community both as a transportation center for selling and conveying their crops to an international marketplace and as a mercantile outlet where local farmers could purchase various staples and commodities. Over time the Conway merchants adjusted to the seasonal nature of this form of commerce and built a thriving commercial center that continues to be economically vital. By the early twentieth century Conway also became an educational center in the state, being the host to both the Arkansas State Normal School (later the Arkansas State Teachers College, now the University of Central Arkansas) and Hendrix College.

Faulkner County, the state's sixty-ninth, was created on April 12, 1873, by Act Forty-four of the state's Nineteenth General Assembly. Conway Station, located on the Little Rock and Ft. Smith Railroad, was initially designated to be the temporary county seat; later, on September 19th, it was officially designated the permanent county seat, and Asa Robinson donated the plot of land for the courthouse upon which the courthouse has remained until this day. The first courthouse -- a handsome, Gothic Revival/Stick Style building -- served the county until 1893, when it was razed for the second building, a Romanesque Revival building. This remained until 1936, when it was replaced with the present structure.

The current Faulkner County Courthouse was designed by the Little Rock architectural firm of Wittenberg and Deloney in a style that combines design elements of the Colonial Revival with overall massing drawn from the Art Deco -- a nationally-popular style in 1930's, particularly for courthouses. The employment of the rusticated masonry on the first floor, the arched fanlight windows on the second story and the various Classical features clearly reflects the Colonial Revival, while the heavy, symmetrical massing and the setback of the upper story are signature elements of the Art Deco. Though this synthesis is not rare for such construction in Arkansas (the Conway County Courthouse in Morrilton, for example), it is not common for these styles to be so successfully blended into a single composition. The Classical elements compliment the heavy massing to create a resemblance to a Renaissance villa. As such the Faulkner County Courthouse remains the finest

example of such a synthesis in Conway, and is thus locally significant under Criterion C.

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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Faulkner County Historical Society, Faulkner County, Its Land and People, Dolan, Doris B., Hattie Ann Kelso, Corinne H. Robinson, eds., (Conway, Arkansas: 1986).

Information provided by Rick Whitaker, Faulkner County Judge's Office, Conway, Arkansas; May, 1995.

___ See continuation sheet.

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:

- X 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

Table with 4 columns: Label, Zone, Easting, Northing. Row A: 15, 550800, 3882830, 15, blank, blank. Row C: 15, blank, blank, 15, blank, blank.

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ___ See continuation sheet.

Beginning at the point where the northern side of Robinson Street intersects with the western edge of Locust Street, proceed northerly along said edge to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the courthouse's northern elevation and located approximately 50 feet to the north thereof; thence proceed westerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the courthouse's western elevation; thence southerly along said line to its intersection with the northern edge of Robinson Street; thence proceed easterly along said line to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: ___ See continuation sheet.

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

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11. Form Prepared By
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Name/Title: Ken Story, NR/Survey Coordinator

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 09/19/95

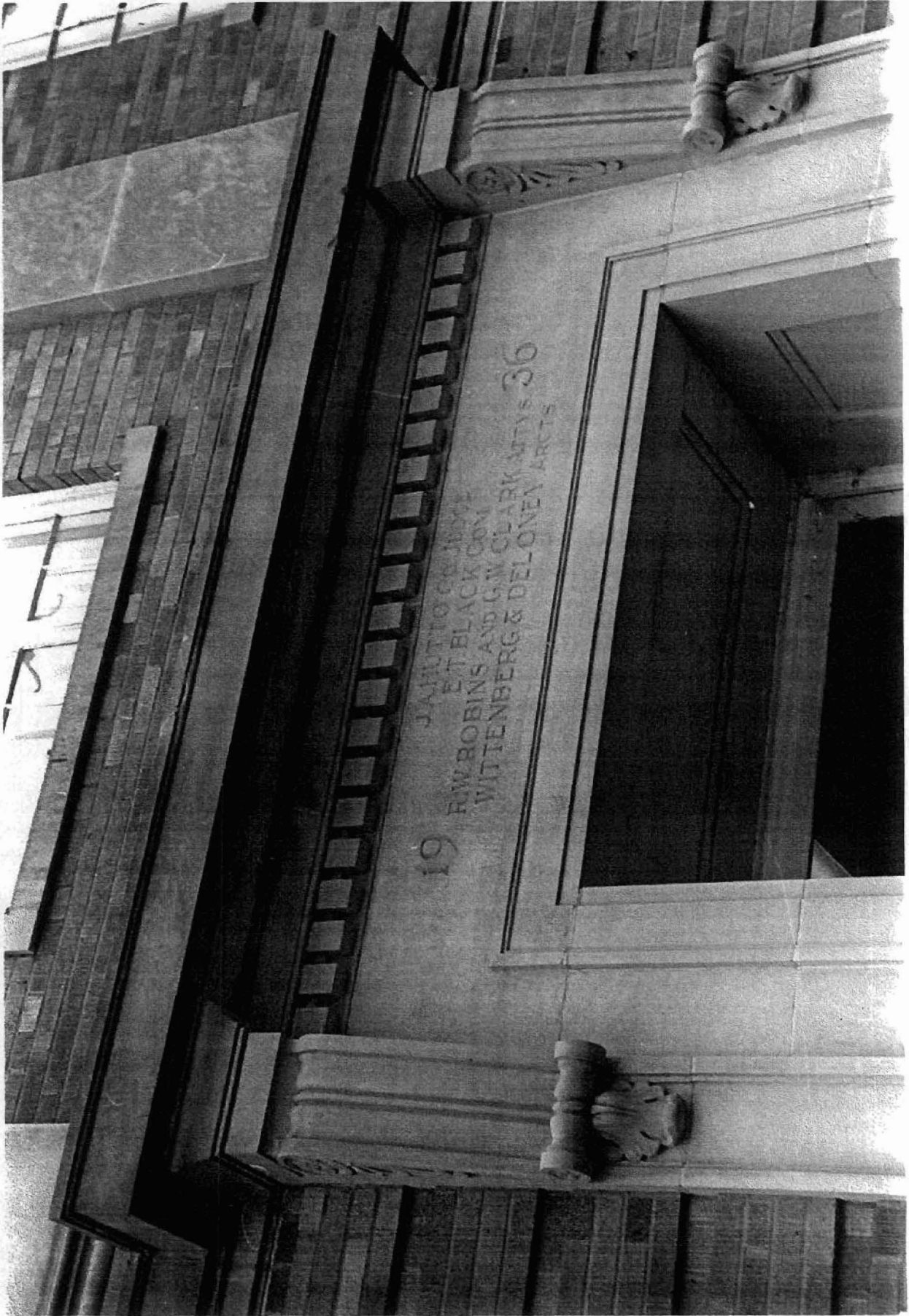
Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

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

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



*Truxena
Co. Ch
Conway
Perryville
15/50000*



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JANUARIUS & JUDGE
ET BLACK COB
WITTENBERG & DELONEY ARCHTS

