

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



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DATE ENTERED

**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

Faulkner County Jail 1896-1938

AND/OR COMMON

Faulkner County Library

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Conway

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Arkansas

CODE

05

COUNTY

Faulkner

CODE

045

**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

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Faulkner County

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Conway

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk's Office - Faulkner County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Conway

STATE

Arkansas

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

W. P. A. Public Buildings Survey (see continuation sheet)

1939

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Faulkner County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Conway

STATE

Arkansas

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Faulkner County Library, built in 1895 as the Faulkner County Jail, is a rectangular (26' x 23') structure with tower. The two storey building is masonry with a stucco finish. There are four windows on each facade with the two lower ones being slightly off set. Windows have stone lintels and sills, and are six-over-six lights. The main entrance to the building is a slightly projecting Roman arch. The foundation is of rusticated stone. The building has a corbeled cornice which terminates at the corners in smooth finished pilasters. The hipped roof once composed of tin shingles with tower finial and roof cresting is now composition shingles. An awning now leads to the front entrance and there has been the addition of shutters.

The first annex was constructed in 1958 and measures 40' x 36' and is located on the northeast. Another annex was added in 1964 measuring 64' x 32' on the southwest. Both additions are painted concrete block.

The first floor is divided into four (4) sections. The second floor contains one (1) section. The tower contains the original winding stairway.

# 6 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
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1896                                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      A. N. Miller

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The October, 1895 term of Faulkner County Court made an appropriation of \$2,110.00 for the purpose of building a county jail. The court then appointed J. A. Pence, Commissioner of County Jails. Pence instigated a competition from which the design of A. N. Miller, architect, was selected. On April 6, 1896, bids were advertised in the Conway Democrat and Log Cabin, two weekly newspapers printed and published in the county. On June 22, 1896, sealed proposals were received and reviewed. Bids were awarded as follows: \$2,300.00 to J. M. Courtney and T. B. Rice for the completion of the building, and \$117.25 to Pauly Jail Building and Manufacturing Company of St. Louis for iron works in cells, window guards, doors, sewer and water pipes.

In 1934, the American Legion took as its national project "Aid to Libraries." When it was learned that the Economic Recovery Act was providing funds to establish libraries, the Conway unit of the legion auxilliary applied for such a project in Faulkner County. The E. R. A. agreed to pay \$53.00 a month salary to a librarian. The library then had to obtain 535 volumes before June 10, 1935, which it did through gifts to the library. In 1939, the library, now with 637 volumes, moved to the Old Jail which was renovated, remodeled and furnished with Works Projects Administration funds. The Arkansas Library Commission gave the institution \$10,000 for the purchase of books. A one (1) mill tax was voted in 1954 for the support and maintenance of the library. There have been two expansions. A 40' x 36' addition was built in 1958 and in 1964 a 64' x 32' structure was added.

The roof, once Courtright pattern tin shingles, is now composition. Roof cresting and finials are gone. The shed porch which runs across the south from the tower to the end of that facade was removed by the W. P. A., and the building was stuccoed. The interior of the building was completely remodeled in 1938 and there are no traces of the jail fixtures.

This structure is now the oldest remaining publicly owned building in Faulkner County. It is well documented. The specifications are on file in the Faulkner County Courthouse, (Book No. 9, Page 464). They attest to this building's structural stability.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Faulkner County Court Records

Book 9, Pages 431-432, 463-472, 485-486, 489-492; 1895-1896

Material on file with Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	5	5	5	0	7	2	0	3	8	8	2	8	7	0
ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

B 

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Prezil E. Miller, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

1977

STREET & NUMBER

Suite 500, Continental Bldg.; Main at Markham Street

TELEPHONE

501-371-2763

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas 72201

# 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

TITLE

DATE

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



## ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

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



August 10, 1977

Mrs. Dula Reid  
Faulkner County Library  
Conway, AR 72032

Re: Faulkner County Library  
Conway, Faulkner County

Dear Mrs. Reid:

The staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program is preparing a National Register nomination for the Faulkner County Library which will be presented to the Arkansas State Review Committee at their September meeting. If approved, the nomination will be submitted to the National Register office in Washington for final consideration.

The National Register of Historic Places is a listing of historic sites, buildings, objects, and districts from all across the country that are worthy of preservation.

Entry in the National Register is an honor which places no obligation on a private owner. It does, however, provide protection through comment by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation from federally financed, assisted or licensed projects that might affect a National Register property.

On October 4, 1976, the President signed a Tax Reform Act of which Section 2124 refers to tax incentives for historic properties. Enclosed you will find an information sheet on that tax act.

If you have any questions concerning the program or this property's nomination, please contact Dianna Kirk of our staff.

Enclosed are two copies of this letter. Please complete the form below, sign and return the original to our office. The copy is for your files. We would appreciate receiving any comments you might have concerning the nomination of this property. If we do not hear from you within 30 days, your approval will be assumed.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Woodard*  
Barbara Woodard, Deputy Director  
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

I approve of the nomination of the above property   x           
to the National Register of Historic Places Yes No

Comments:

We are very pleased to be considered for nomination to the National Register of Historic places.

Thank you,

8-12-77  
Date

*Dula H. Reid*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

