



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

RECEIVED

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 Franklin County Courthouse, Southern District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Highway 22

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Charleston

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

STATE

Arkansas

VICINITY OF

CODE
05

COUNTY

Franklin

CODE
047

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Franklin County (Nick Gilsinger, County Judge)

STREET & NUMBER

Franklin County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Charleston

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Franklin County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Charleston

STATE

Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Franklin County Courthouse at Charleston was designed by architect Frank W. Gibb of Little Rock. Constructed in 1923, this two-and-one-half storey brick building is of simple lines with little ornamentation.

The courthouse has a basic rectangular form and rests on a full basement. Except for the cast stone water table, the red brick walls are continuous from the ground level to the roofline. Brick pilasters, each with a cast stone "T-shape" pattern at the top, divide the wall surface into a series of bays, five on the north and south elevations and three on the east and west elevations. A metal cornice surrounds the building just below the actual roofline.

All windows are paired and set in wooden frames with cast stone lugsills. The upper sash of each window has nine lights, while each lower sash has a single large light. Basement windows are also double-hung but have six lights per sash. Horizontal panels of cast stone are set between each pair of first-and second-storey windows.

The main entry, recessed in the center bay of the north elevation, is marked by brick pilasters with cast stone heads supporting a flat arch with keystone. Secondary entries are flush with the wall surface on the east and west elevations. The double doors on the west have a geometrical pattern in the upper portion, narrow side-lights, and a wide multi-light transom above.

Second-storey fan windows are located on the east and west elevations, and on the center bays of the north and south elevations. The upper end windows on the north and south elevations have multi-light rectangular transoms.

Though the interior of the building has been thoroughly renovated, the exterior has remained basically unaltered. Several window openings have been bricked, but no structural changes have been made. The courthouse remains in good condition on its original site, a tree-shaded corner in the Charleston business district.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

HISTORIC

ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC

COMMUNITY PLANNING

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

RELIGION

1400-1499

ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC

CONSERVATION

LAW

SCIENCE

1500-1599

AGRICULTURE

ECONOMICS

LITERATURE

SCULPTURE

1600-1699

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

MILITARY

SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN

1700-1799

ART

ENGINEERING

MUSIC

THEATER

1800-1899

COMMERCE

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

PHILOSOPHY

TRANSPORTATION

1900-

COMMUNICATIONS

INDUSTRY

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

OTHER (SPECIFY)

INVENTION

SPECIFIC DATES 1923

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Frank W. Gibb

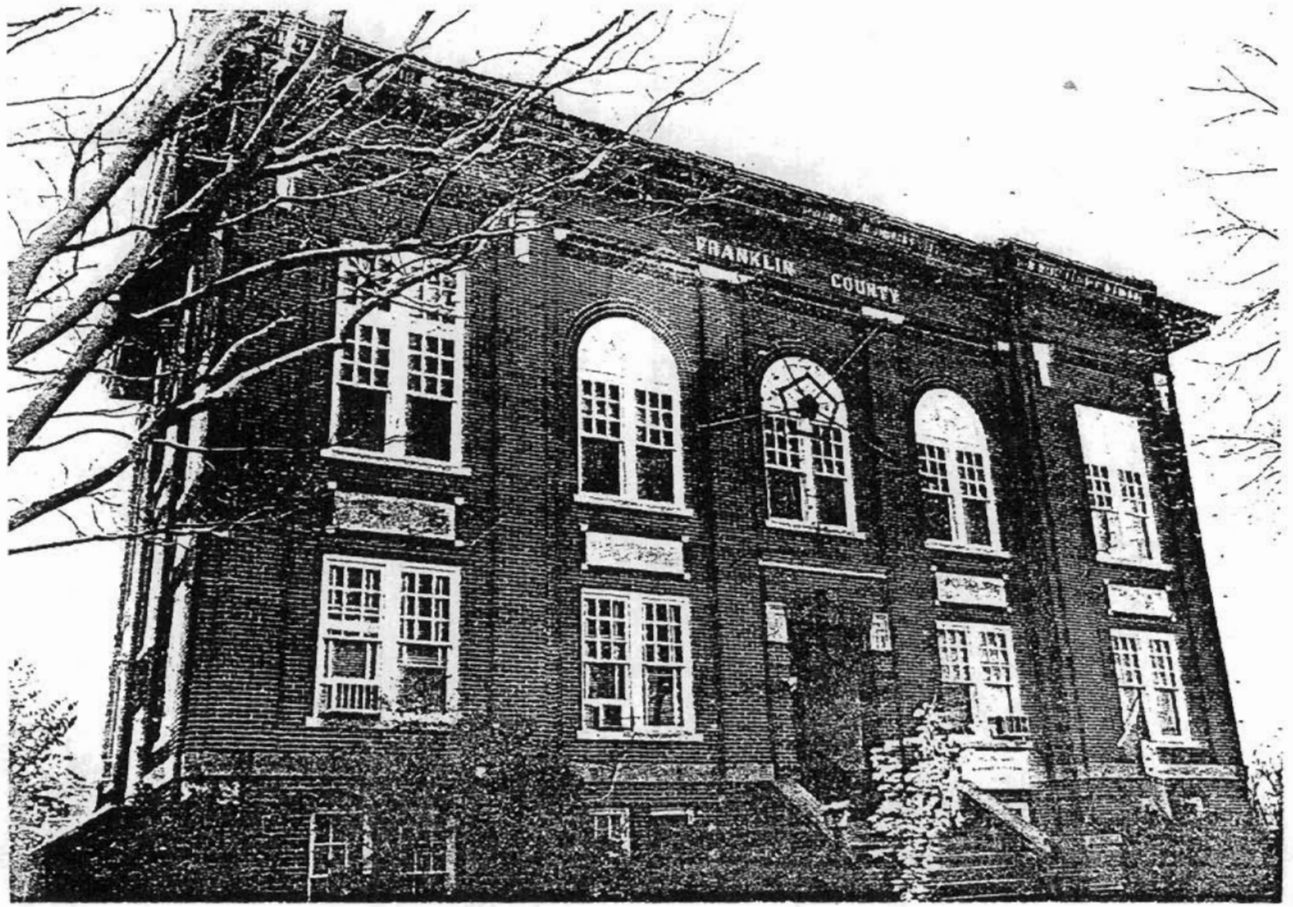
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The largest number of architecturally significant buildings in Arkansas are the courthouses located in the state's seventy-five counties. The county courthouses serve as the focal point of local political activity, and are often the most architecturally significant structures in their area.

Franklin County, spanning the Arkansas River in the western part of the state, is one of ten Arkansas counties to have two county seats. Named for Benjamin Franklin, the county was created from Crawford County on December 19, 1837. The first permanent county seat was located at Ozark, which lies north of the Arkansas River. Almost fifty years later, on March 14, 1885, a second county seat was established at Charleston to serve the southern part of the county.

In 1923 a prominent Little Rock architect, Frank W. Gibb, was hired to design a new courthouse for Franklin County's southern district. The Charleston courthouse, built by contractor E. W. Jenkins, is a simple rectangular structure of red brick. Pilasters divide the walls into a series of bays. Window treatment, with fan windows around a part of the second storey, is in harmony with the simple style of the flat-roofed building.

Located on its original site in the principal business district, the Franklin County Courthouse at Charleston is an architectural landmark in this west Arkansas community.



ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM



"THE OLD STATE HOUSE" 300 WEST MARKHAM

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 722
TELEPHONE - 501 371-1

APR 16 1976

PROPERTY OWNER'S APPROVAL

I, Franklin County, am the legal
owner of the Franklin County Courthouse
located at Charleston, Arkansas.

I hereby acknowledge that I have been fully informed and understand the significance of having the aforementioned property placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

I hereby approve the inclusion of the aforementioned property on the National Register of Historic Places.

Neil Glinzer; County Judge
County

April 14, 1976
Date