

26-30-433-33

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

GARLAND  
CO. COURTHOUSE  
LISTED:  
12/6/79

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Garland County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

Courthouse

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Corner of Ouachita and Hawthorne

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Hot Springs

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

STATE

Arkansas

VICINITY OF

CODE

05

COUNTY

Garland

CODE

051

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

Garland County

STREET & NUMBER

Garland County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Hot Springs

STATE

Arkansas 71901

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Garland County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Hot Springs

STATE

Arkansas 71901

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

County Courthouse Survey

DATE

1976

FEDERAL  STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

CITY, TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas 72201

# 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 1905
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Garland County Courthouse is a brick Renaissance inspired classic structure possessing architectural significance. It is a five-bay four-storey building that is built over a full basement. The plan of the building is rectangular with projecting central bays on both the north (entrance) and south elevations. The original symmetry of the courthouse has been altered by the attachment of unobtrusive rectangular two-storey additions to both the south and west elevations. A domed-cupola (1913) sustained by paired Ionic columns centers the roof. The courthouse rests on a large tree covered tract which is partially enclosed by a wrought-iron fence. Parking lots are located off the south and west elevations.

Balustrades are located on the roof line of the east and west elevations. The cornice is composed of a full entablature with each corner of the building articulated by pediments which are supported by two-storey Ionic pilasters.

Windows are three over three (3/3) and are covered with striped awnings. Third storey windows are capped with arched hood molds which have keystones. A concrete belt course forms the impost from which the arches of the hood molds spring. Second floor windows are pedimented and feature ancons as supports. A second concrete belt-course is situated at the storey line between the second and third floors. Another belt course separates the first and second floors.

The brick of the first floor is laid in a pattern that produces a rusticated effect.

Three centered single doors serve as the entrances to the building on the north elevation.

Fairly successful attempts were made to tie each of the additions to the original body of the courthouse. The newest addition (1977) on the west elevation is brick, features pilasters at the corners, and has awnings over the windows. Otherwise, there is little detail-work, and it is topped by a Mansard roof which is not in keeping with the original design of the courthouse. The jail-addition on the south elevation (1930) mirrors the original portion of the building with a rusticated brick first floor. Neither of the two additions are large in comparison with the main section of the courthouse.

The interior walls are masonry and plaster, and floors are ceramic tile. Some floors have been carpeted. Much of the original woodwork remains including that found in the predominantly wood-trimmed courtrooms.

In 1913 the courthouse was severely damaged by fire and much of the simple interior detail-work dates after this period. This work is said to be less intricate than that of the original construction. The exterior was almost completely restored to its original appearance after the 1913 fire. At the time of the fire the three original domes were damaged; they have never been replaced.

In 1978 minor alterations were made to the interior of the courthouse as a part of a general courthouse improvement plan. At the same time some of the interior walls and other interior features were restored.

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In size and appearance the Garland County Courthouse is one of the finest and is the largest Renaissance Revival structure in Hot Springs, Arkansas, which is a resort city of 35,000 located in the Ouachita Mountains of south-central Arkansas. The building is one of the largest and oldest of Arkansas' county courthouses.

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#9 - MAJOR BIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Cont'd)

6. Sentinel Record, June 2, 1913.
7. George Young, Deputy Coroner, interview, September 22, 1978.
8. Donald Loyd, B & F Engineering, interview, September 23, 1978.
9. Jacob King, CPA, interview, September 18, 1978.
10. Roscoe Grugg, Associate Architect, September 27, 1978.
11. Mr. Bill Ridgeway, Garland County Clerk, September 5, 1978.

# SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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    1905/1913                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT    Unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Garland County Courthouse is a brick, Renaissance-inspired structure that is both architecturally and historically significant. The courthouse is four stories tall and five bays in width and is one of the largest and finest Neo-Classical Revival structures in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Hot Springs is the county seat of Garland County; and, at the time of the completion of the courthouse in 1905, the city was one of the nation's premier health resorts. In 1976 the Arkansas State Review Committee reviewed survey information which was prepared by the staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program on all of the surviving county courthouses in the state. After reviewing the survey information, the State Review Committee rated the architectural significance of each courthouse; and they rated the Garland County Courthouse as being among the most significant of Arkansas' courthouses.

County government, headquartered in the county courthouse, forms the basis of representative democracy in Arkansas. The Garland County Courthouse has served as the seat for county government in Garland County for the last three-quarters of a century; the building is a significant visual reminder of the political history of the county.

The Garland County Courthouse is a rectangular structure with central bays projecting from both its north (entrance) and south elevations. Two relatively small and compatible additions, that date from 1930 and 1977, join the courthouse on its south and west elevations. The building was severely damaged by a fire in 1913. Both its roof and interior were reconstructed after the fire. The courthouse retains the integrity of its 1905 and 1913 construction periods because few alterations have been performed on the building since the fire.

Among the noteworthy features of the courthouse is a domed lantern which centers the roof and which is sustained by paired Ionic columns. Balustrades are located at the eastern and western extremities of the roof. The cornice is a full entablature. Each corner of the building is articulated by pediments that are supported by two-storey Ionic pilasters.

The windows of the third storey are capped with arched hood molds, which are broken by keystones. The second storey windows are pedimented and feature ancons. The brick of the first floor is laid in a pattern that produces a rusticated effect.

The interior walls are plaster and the floors are ceramic tile. Some of the floors have been carpeted. The courtrooms are trimmed in wood.

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Darcy D. Dobson, who is a member of the Garland County Judge's staff, has prepared a history of the courthouse which details significant events relating to the building. The following is Mr. Dobson's history of the building.

**I. FIRE OF 1905**

- A. In 1905 the old Garland County Courthouse was a victim of a disastrous fire which destroyed more than twenty blocks of the City of Hot Springs. Later in the same year a new Courthouse was constructed at the corner of Hawthorne and Ouachita. The corner stone was laid August 15, 1905, by the Grand Lodge (AF&AM), Free and Accepted Masons of Arkansas. The building was completed in 1906 at a cost of \$155,000. Fire proof vaults were installed so that records and deeds would be safe. Many records were destroyed in the 1905 fire. (Inez E. Cline, archivist, Garland County Historical Society, interview - September 6, 1978; James J. Dowds, CPA, interview - September 19, 1978).
- B. In 1906, permission was given to a woman's organization, Fort-Nightly, for use of a large room at the east end of the fourth floor. This became a regular meeting place for that women's organization. (Mary Hudgens, writer, historian, researcher, interview - September 23, 1978).
- C. In August, 1910, Jacob "Jake" Houpt was shot during a gun fight battle while serving as Sheriff of Garland County. The battle started in the Sheriff's office which led to a chase, resulting in the injury of Sheriff Houpt. Sheriff Houpt died August 20, 1910, in a local hospital. (References same as I-A, Sentinel-Record, August 21, 1910.)

**II. FIRE OF 1913**

- A. On September 5, 1913, the Courthouse was again severely damaged by another calamitous fire, which not only gutted the newly constructed Courthouse, but also swept through fifty blocks of the City of Hot Springs. In spite of the fire the masonry-concrete frame was able to still remain standing. (Inez E. Cline, archivist, Garland County Historical Society, interview - September 6, 1978; Geraldine T. Edwards, assistant archivist, Garland County Historical Society, interview - September 6, 1978; James J. Dowds, CPA, interview - September 19, 1978).

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II. FIRE OF 1913 (CONT'D)

- B. The last legal hanging took place in Garland County on June 2, 1913, at the west end of the Courthouse. A boxed-in scaffold was constructed to conceal the execution from the public. At this time the jail was located at the west entrance. (Inez E. Cline, archivist, Garland County Historical Society, interview - September 6, 1978; Mary Hudgens, writer, historian, researcher, interview - September 23, 1978; Sentinel-Record, June 2, 1913).
- C. In 1930 a new jail was built in the southeast portion of the Courthouse where it still remains today. (Inez E. Cline, archivist, Garland County Historical Society, interview - September 6, 1978).

III. NEW ADDITION

- A. In 1974 an addition to the west wing of the Courthouse added more county business offices and an entrance to facilitate the handicapped. The cost of the new addition was in the vicinity of \$282,000 to \$287,000. The new addition was completed in December of 1975. The general contractor was Floyd Sutton Corp. The architectural firm was the Associate Architectural Engineers and Planners of Little Rock. The electrical engineering firm was Kaufman Electric. (Roscoe Grubb, associate architect, interview - September 27, 1978).
- B. In March of 1978 renovation of the building began under the administration of County Judge W. J. "Bill" McCuen and included such improvements as the replacement of the concrete floors in the restrooms with new concrete floors and the addition of grab bars to each handicapped toilet stall. Electrical panels on the first floor were reworked and the first floor walls were refinished. A new suspended ceiling and lights were added to a portion of the second floor corridor. Other improvements to the building and its grounds included the planting of grass, painting, and the construction of a drive leading to an entrance on the east side of the jail.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. 1910 Hot Springs City Directory.
2. Inez Cline, Archivist, Garland County Historical Society, interview September 6, 1978.
3. Mary Hudgens, Writer, Historian, Researcher, interview, September 23, 1978.
4. James J. Dowds, CPA, interview, September 19, 1978.
5. Mrs. Geraldine T. Edwards, Assistant Archivist, Garland County Historical Society, interview, September 6, 1978.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Hot Springs, North, Arkansas

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 491461010 381791210  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Mike Shinn, Historian, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
and Darcy D. Dobson, County Judge's Staff, Garland County, Arkansas

ARCHITECTURAL RESEARCH BY: Frezil Miller, Architectural  
Historian & Mike Shinn, Historian, ANPP

DATE  
4/16/79

STREET & NUMBER  
831 Third Street

TELEPHONE  
623-3131

CITY OR TOWN  
Hot Springs

STATE  
Arkansas 71901

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL    STATE    LOCAL x

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

*John Baldridge*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 4/19/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

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III. NEW ADDITION (CONT'D)

- C. The County Courtroom, the County Clerk's Office, and the Revenue Office were also altered in 1978. The alterations to these rooms consisted of installing suspended ceilings, refinishing walls, reworking electrical panels by adding central heat and air conditioning, and laying carpet. The total cost of the 1978 renovation of the Garland County Courthouse amounted to \$113,118.00. The general contractor was Hillard Cox Incorporated. The architect was Donald R. Loyd of B & F Engineering. (Interview with Donald R. Loyd of B & F Engineering on September 23, 1978).

One final element which establishes the significance of the Garland County Courthouse is the setting of the building. The Courthouse rests on a large, tree-covered tract, which is partially enclosed by a wrought-iron fence. Buildings on the streets bordering the Courthouse appear to have a construction date contemporary with the 1913 reworking of the courthouse. The two large parking lots, located off the south and west elevations of the courthouse, interfere with a proper visual appreciation of the structure from the south and west.



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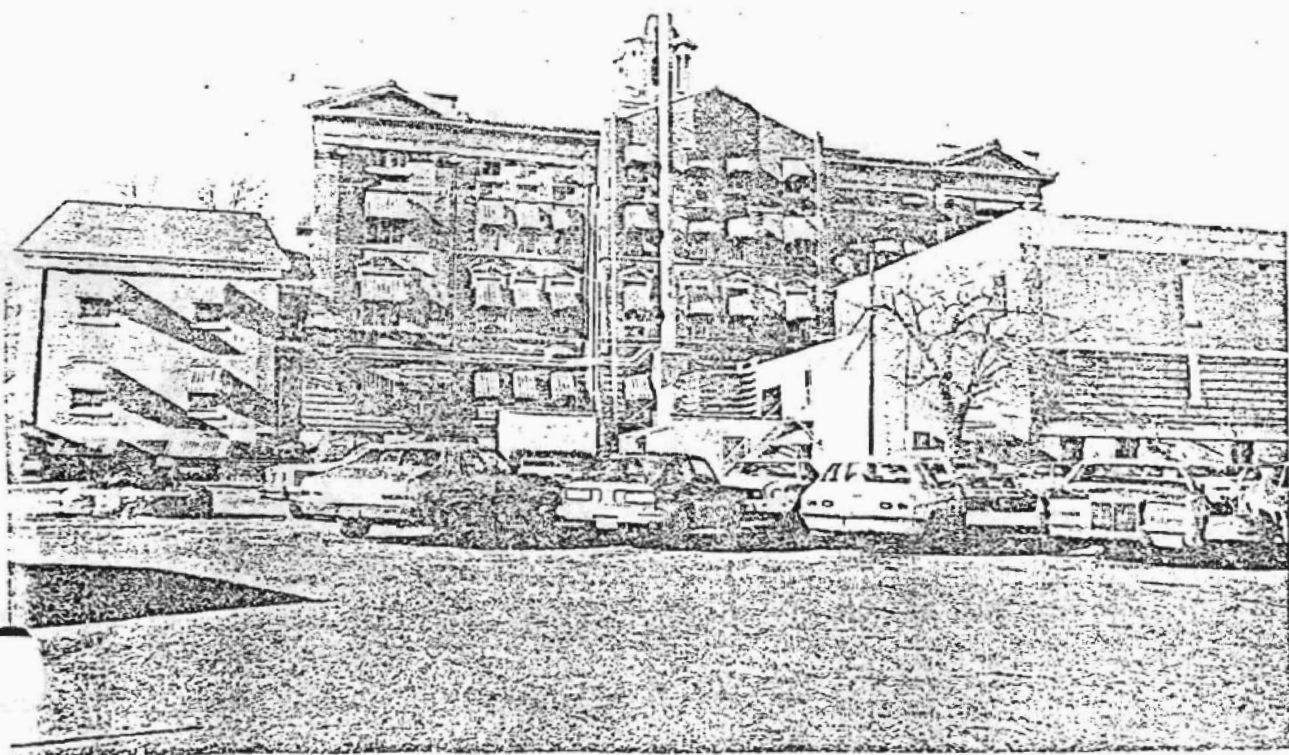
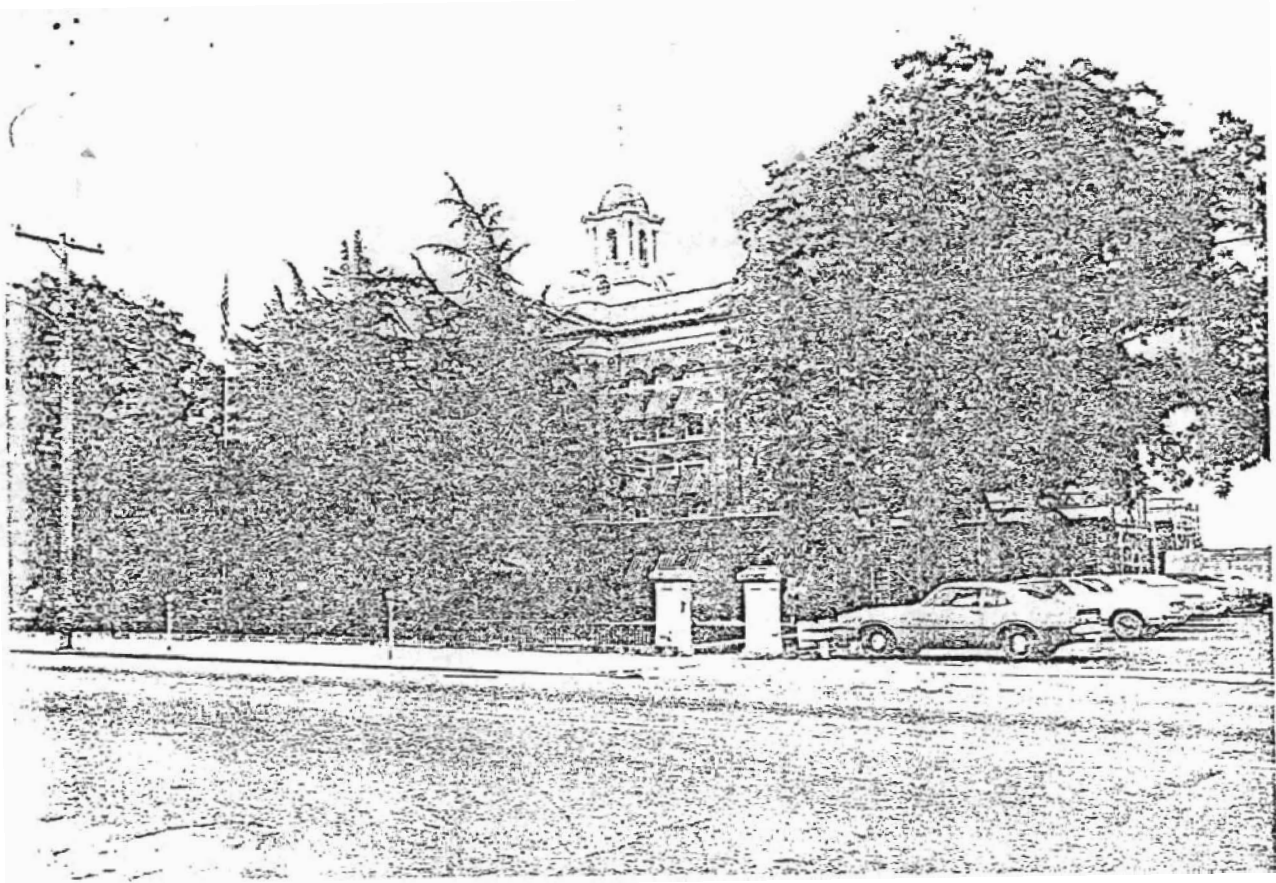
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE one

Garland County Courthouse  
Hot Springs  
Garland County, Arkansas

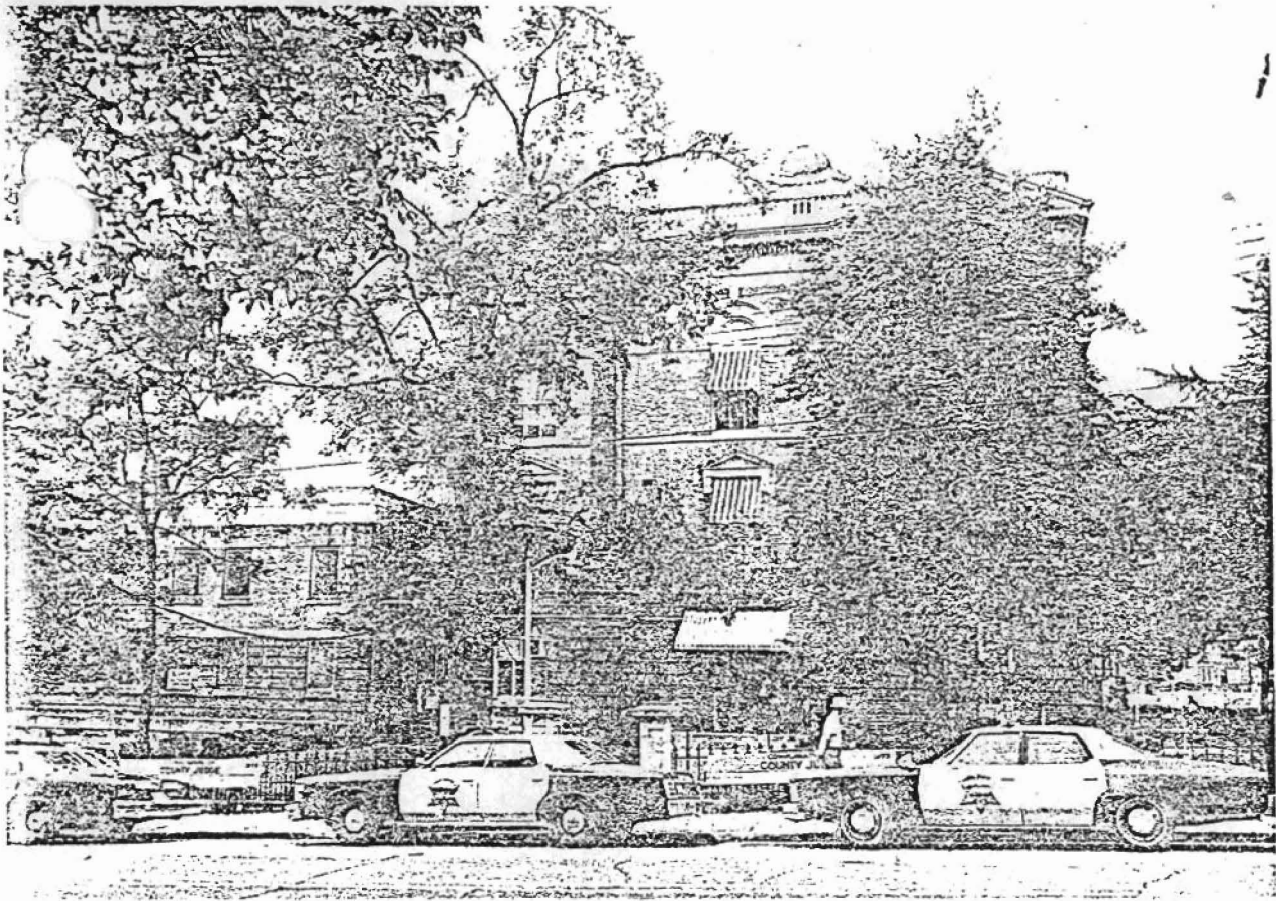
Verbal Boundary Description

All of lots 9 and 10, block 94, Hot Springs Reservation, excluding the 1930 addition off the south elevation of the original structure and the 1977 addition off the west elevation of the original structure. The additions are excluded because they do not contribute to the historical or visual significance of the Garland County Courthouse.



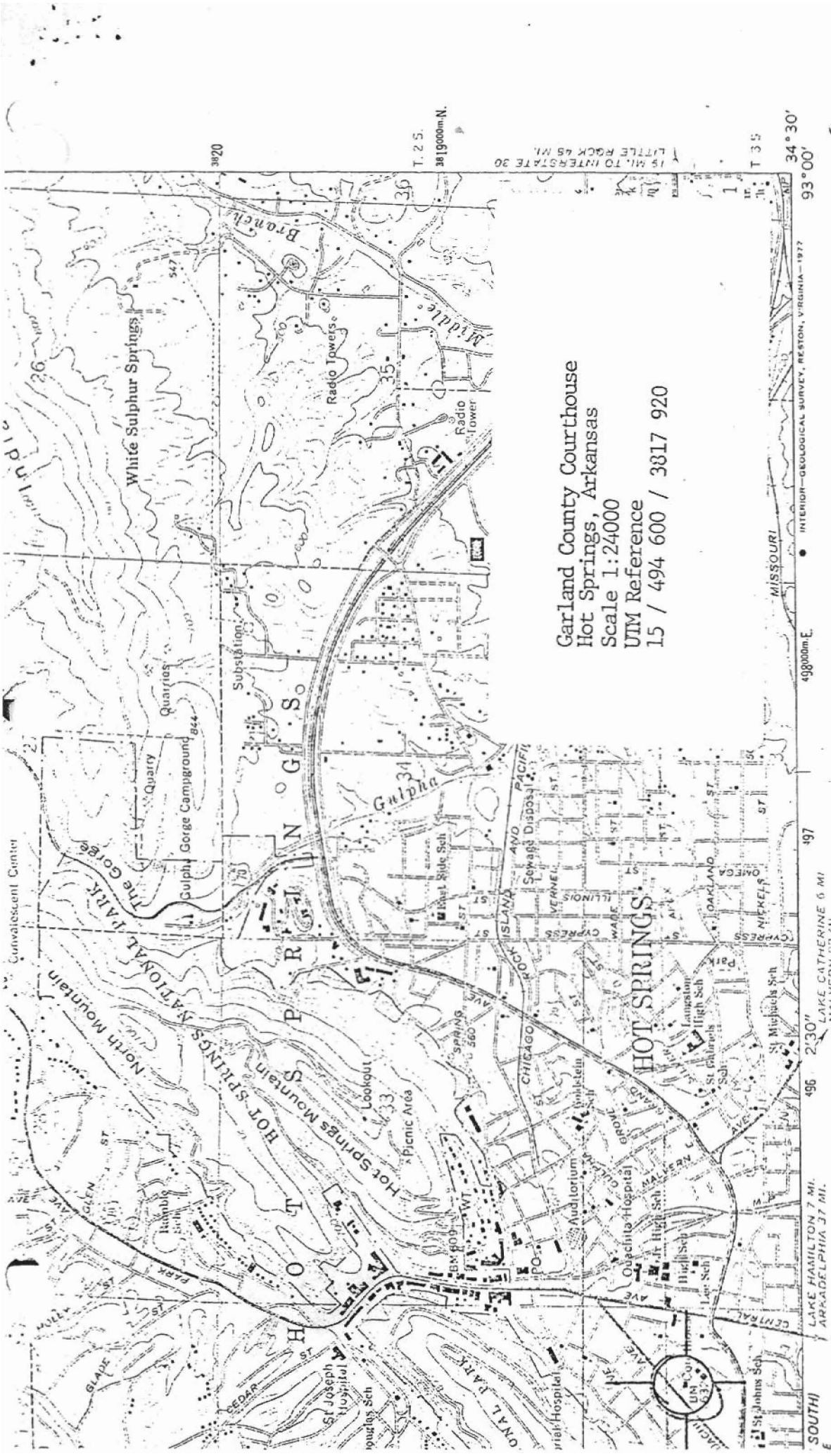
Garland County Courthouse  
Hot Springs, Arkansas  
Mike Shinn  
1979  
AHPP  
North Elevation from NW  
#1

Garland County Courthouse  
Hot Springs, Arkansas  
Mike Shinn  
1979  
AHPP  
South Elevation from South  
#2



Garland County Courthouse  
Hot Springs, Arkansas  
Mike Shinn  
1979  
AHPP  
East Elevation from East  
#3

Garland County Courthouse  
Hot Springs, Arkansas  
Mike Shinn  
1979  
AHPP  
Northeast corner  
#4

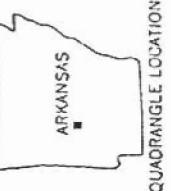
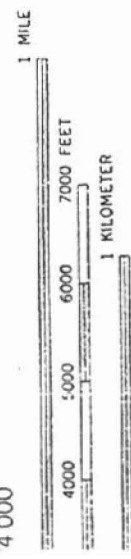


Garland County Courthouse  
 Hot Springs, Arkansas  
 Scale 1:24000  
 UTM Reference  
 15 / 494 600 / 3817 920

(LAKE CATHERINE)  
 7452 IV NW

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty
- Light-duty
- Medium-duty
- Unimproved dirt
- U.S. Route
- State Route



HOT SPRINGS NORTH, ARK.  
 N3430—W9300/7.5

ALL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
 DN, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204  
 AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

1966

PHOTOGRAPHED BY 4072

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NR-DISTED  
11/21/89

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Garland County Courthouse (Boundary Increase)  
Hot Springs  
Garland County, Arkansas

Verbal Boundary Description (Amended)

All of Lots 9 and 10, Block 94, Hot Springs Reservation.

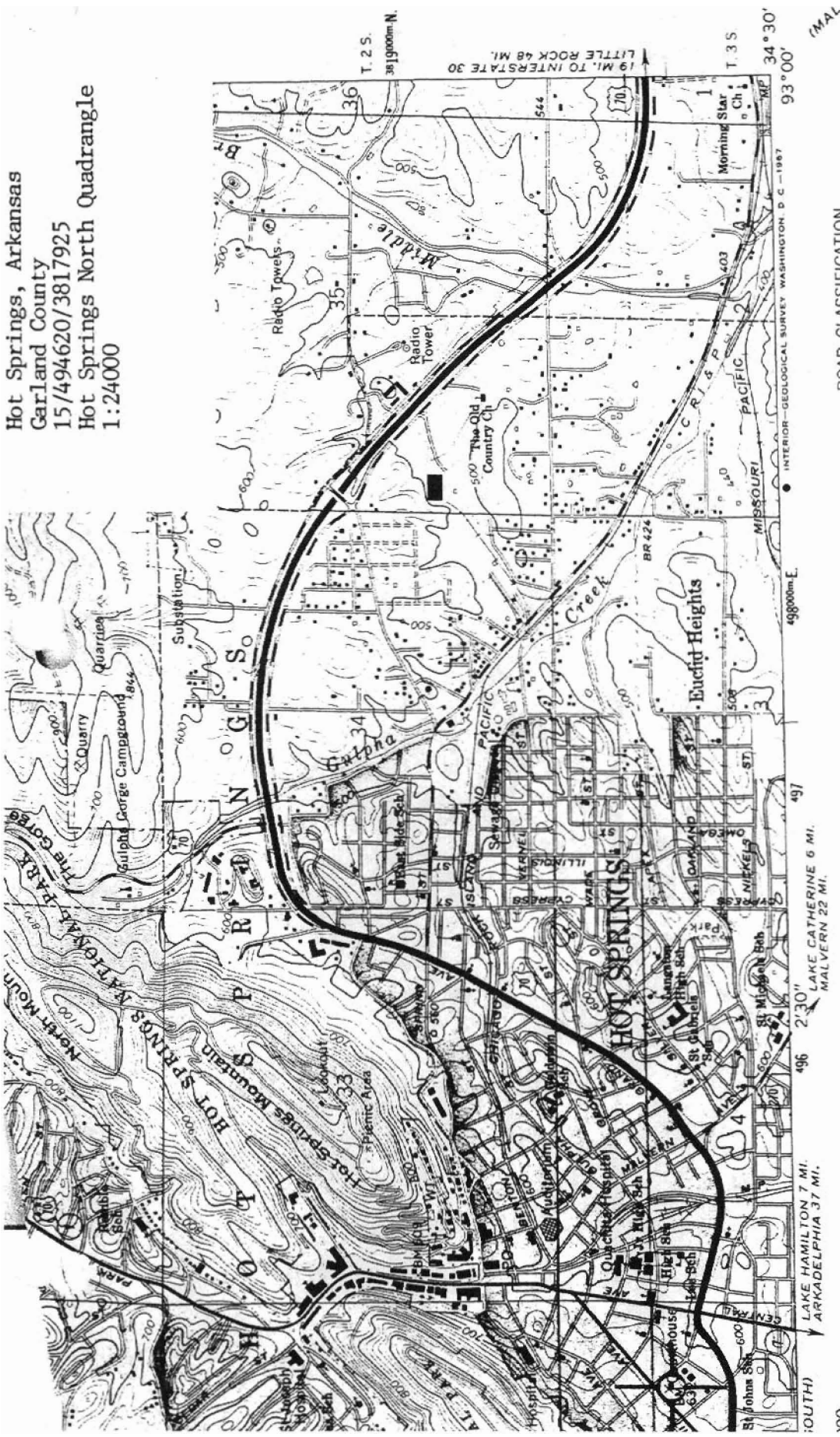
Boundary Justification

The original boundary was drawn around the walls of the original 1909 courthouse and therefore through the connecting sections of the two later additions (the 1930 southern or rear jail and the 1974 western office wing, both of which are mentioned in the original Section 7 and therein described as compatible and inobtrusive), thereby excluding them. Given that standing structures are typically determined eligible or ineligible as a whole, including any historic or non-historic additions, and that the original Section 7 described both of these additions as inobtrusive, it must be concluded that the exclusion of these additions in the original verbal boundary description was the result of a professional error. The amended verbal boundary description eliminates these exclusions and thus includes the entire present structure.

*Cathryn H. Buford*  
State Historic Preservation Officer,  
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

*10-12-89*  
Date

Hot Springs, Arkansas  
 Garland County  
 15/494620/3817925  
 Hot Springs North Quadrangle  
 1:24000



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
 Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———

U.S. Route ○ State Route



**HOT SPRINGS NORTH, ARK.**  
 N3430—W9300/7.5

MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 LORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
 SION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201  
 SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

1966  
 AMS 7353 II SE—SERIES V884

(MAL)

LAKE HAMILTON 7 MI.  
 ARKADDELPHIA 37 MI.  
 LAKE CATHERINE 5 MI.  
 MALVERN 22 MI.

100  
 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET  
 1 KILOMETER  
 L 20 FEET  
 A LEVEL

MISSOURI PACIFIC

T. 2 S.  
 36 1900m N.  
 T. 3 S.  
 34° 30'  
 93° 00'

19 MI. TO INTERSTATE 30  
 LITTLE ROCK 48 MI.

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WASHINGTON, D. C.—1967



