

NR 8-11-76

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

Greene County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Courtsquare

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Paragould

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Arkansas

VICINITY OF

CODE

05

COUNTY

Greene

CODE

55

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	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> 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

Greene County

STREET & NUMBER

Court Square

CITY, TOWN

Paragould

STATE

Arkansas

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Greene County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Court Square

CITY, TOWN

Paragould

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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 Greene County Courthouse at Paragould is a large, rectangular structure with Georgian Revival elements predominating. The original red brick of the courthouse has been covered with brown stucco.

The low-hipped roof has gables on the southeast, northeast, northwest, and southwest corners. Each gable is pedimented and has a semicircular air vent. Above the front and rear entrances are two more gables. These gables are larger than the others and have brackets outlining the pediment. Fanlights are also featured in the center of these two gables. The cornice line of the roof is classically detailed and bracketed.

In the center of the roof is a square, frame cupola. When the courthouse was originally constructed, the square cupola was the base of a clock tower. The tower had a clock with double-louvered windows above it and an arched belfry topped by a dome with ogee roof and spire. About 1970 the dome tower was condemned and removed from the courthouse.

The facade (which faces south) and the rear elevation are similarly constructed. Both have arched, recessed doorways. The reveal of the doorways are paneled. The four-panel double doors have glass in the upper-half and feature semicircular stilted fanlights. Above the doorways on the slightly projecting center bays are arched windows. Decorations accent the transom bars and mullions which form a cross in the arched windows. One difference between the facade and the back elevation is the entrance steps. The facade has six steps and features handrails with spiral balusters, while the rear steps have only two steps and plain handrails.

Protruding center bays with arched doorways and arched windows are featured on the side elevations also. The doors do not have fanlights however, as do the doors on the facade and rear elevations. The center bays on the side elevations form double chimneys, reminiscent of Medieval architecture.

Windows are double-hung sash with double-pane transoms above each one. Wide, decorative lintels and slender lugsills are featured on each window.

A two-storey addition was attached to the west elevation in 1916. The appendage, which houses the vaults, has a flat roof and has a stucco wall finish. The first-storey windows on the addition, which have iron bars over them are double-hung and transomed. The windows of the top storey are double-hung, but they have no transoms nor iron bars. The east and west elevations of the addition have no first-floor openings, but the upper storey has windows. Onto this appendage has been added a small, one-storey frame storage building. A similar one has also been added to the east elevation, just right of the entrance door.

The original floor plan of the interior has been altered to accommodate the need for office space. High ceilings, plastered walls, and tile floors are present. No outstanding architectural features appear in the interior.

SIGNIFICANCE

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> HISTORIC	<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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 1888

BUILDER/ARCHITECT J. E. Shane

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The largest number of architecturally significant public buildings in Arkansas are the courthouses scattered over the state's seventy-five counties. A structural symbol of American government, the county courthouse serves as the center of local political activity. Often the largest and most costly building in the county, the courthouse is almost always a source of pride to the citizens who financed and make use of its facilities.

Greene County was formed in 1833 from part of Lawrence County and named in honor of General Nathaniel Greene, the Revolutionary War hero. The first center of county business was the Crowley Plantation, home of Benjamin Crowley. This served until a first official county seat was selected at Paris in 1835. Paris was selected because it was then in the center of the county. The courthouse, a vacant, hewn-log house, eighteen feet square, served from 1835 to 1848.

In 1848 the county seat was moved to Gainesville, five miles southwest of Paris, and Paris as a community disappeared. The new courthouse built at Gainesville was a three-storey frame building with the county offices occupying the first floor, the courtroom on the second floor, and a Masonic Hall on the top floor. The courthouse was a thirty-foot square building.

This courthouse burned in 1874, destroying many county records. A storeroom temporarily served as a courthouse, but it also burned in the same year destroying the remaining records. Another fire destroyed the fourth courthouse in 1876.

Arson was suspected in each case of fire, so the new courthouse constructed at Gainesville in 1877 contained a fireproof safe that cost the county \$1105.00.

On March 3, 1883, Paragould became incorporated, and a subsequent election in September, 1884, moved the county seat to the new town. The Ben Wood House on the west end of Main Street was used for a courthouse until 1884, when a temporary courthouse was built at a cost of \$1194.00.

The present courthouse at Paragould was contracted in 1887 at a bid of \$14,700.00. The citizens of the county decided to add a clock, and an additional \$700 had to be subscribed for it. The original plans drawn by J. E. Shane, which called for a tower, had to be modified for the clock and this raised the cost an extra \$300.00. The tower on which the clock was located has since been removed. In April, 1888, the courthouse was completed and occupied.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE one

The original wall surface of the courthouse was red brick, but the brick has since been covered by brown stucco. Other alterations include the removal of the clock tower and the adaptive alterations made to the interior for office space. A major addition was added in 1916 to the west elevation to serve as the vault room. Two storage facilities of white frame have also been made to the jail and east elevation.

The Greene County Courthouse, like many of the other courthouses in the state, is significant both architecturally and historically. Built just after Paragould became incorporated, it is located in a court square in what was the middle of the new town. Around it sprang up other municipal and government buildings. Though it no longer remains centered because of the growth of Paragould, the Greene County Courthouse is still located in the heart of the old city.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Crafton, Betty (Greene County Clerk), interviewed by phone, February 17, 1976.
- Hansbrough, Vivian, History of Greene County Courthouse, (Little Rock: Democrat Printing and Lithography Co., 1946.)
- Phillips, Gerald (Greene County Judge), personal interview, January 21, 1976 at the Courthouse, Paragould, Arkansas.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	15	7206	1010	92	15	10	B						
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING					ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			
C							D						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Donna DuVall, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

3/9/76

STREET & NUMBER

300 West Markham

TELEPHONE

371-1639

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

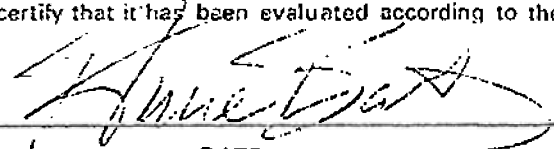
NATIONAL

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 Anne Bartley



TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

3-9-76

FDR NPS USE ONLY

HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

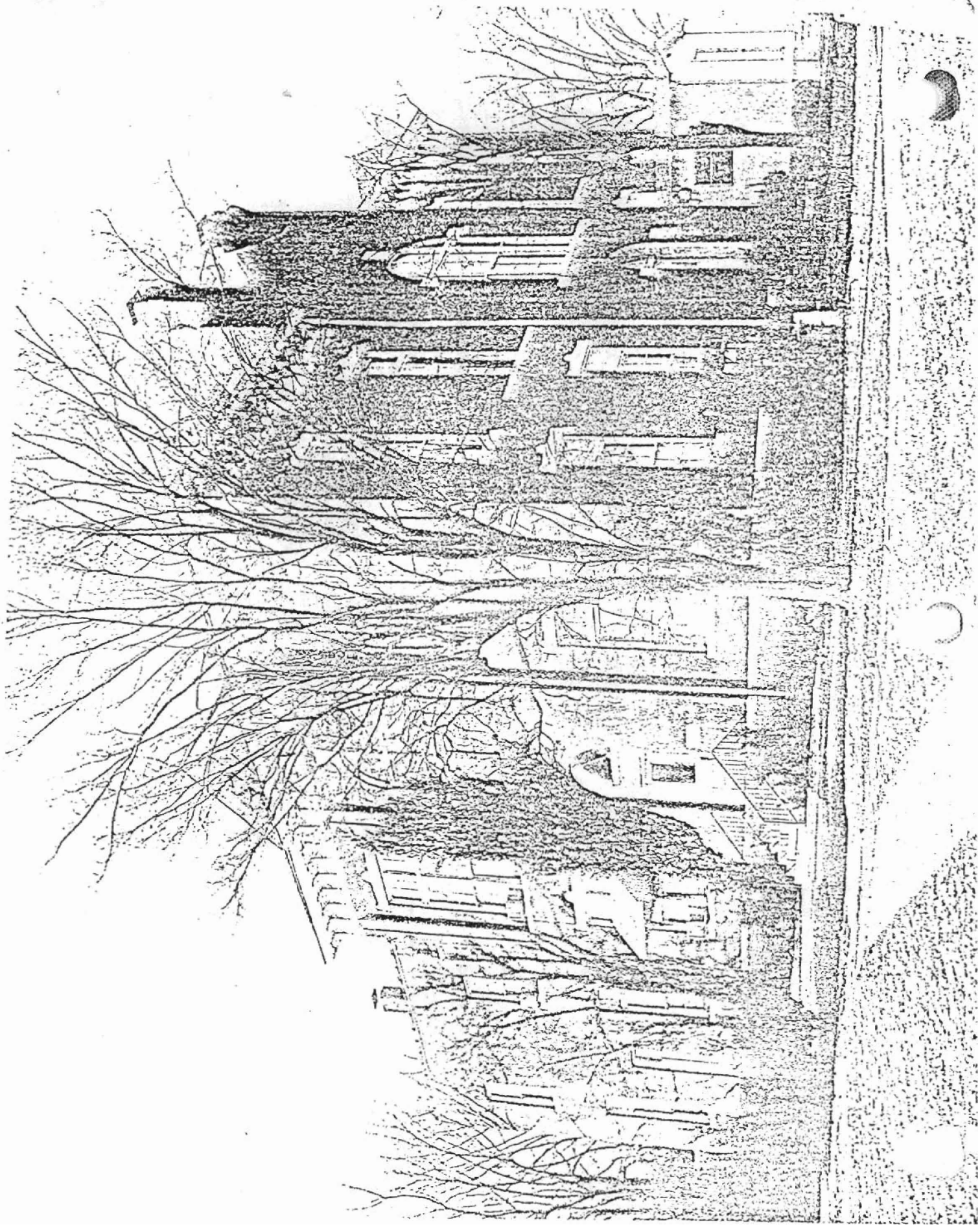
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Form No. 10-301
(Rev. 10-76)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

NAME

HISTORIC

Greene County Courthouse
AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Paragould

— VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Greene

STATE

Arkansas

MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE U. S. Geological Survey

SCALE 1:24,000

DATE 1958

REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



