

DR 11-18-76
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

Jackson County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Newport

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

CODE

15

COUNTY

Jackson

CODE

67

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
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Joe Coe, County Judge

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Newport

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jackson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Newport

STATE

Arkansas

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

RY FOR
ORDS

STATE

7 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 Jackson County Courthouse at Newport, constructed in 1892, is a three-storey, Victorian, red-brick structure, resting upon a rusticated-stone foundation. Architecturally the structure is significant because it represents a finely preserved example of a typical governmental building around the turn of the century.

The square clock tower, located atop the protruding center bay of the facade, is the most distinguishing architectural feature. The first floor of the three-storey tower features an arched entrance. The massive building stones and short supportive columns give the entrance a heavy, Romanesque appearance. Each of the steps within the umbrage leading to the wide double doors is inscribed "Jackson County Courthouse-1892." Marbled tile extends halfway up the wall surface of the umbrage while the remainder is bricked. Sidelites and a large transom with vertical mullions separating the transom into five segments decorate the double, glass entrance doors. Double, rectangular windows on the second storey of the bay are topped with a decorative lintel. The third storey has small, plain, rectangular windows, each topped by a pair of arched, louvered windows. The clock tower rises from the corbelling of the bay. Each elevation of the tower is identical, having a round, louvered window, a set of three windows and a clock. The tower has square piers at each corner and a statue on top. From the high hipped roof of the main body of the courthouse rises a tower on each of the four corners. The towers on the southeast and northwest elevations are pyramidal in shape. The tower on the southwest elevation has a conical-shaped roof. The remaining tower on the northeast elevation has a hipped roof. The windows on all three stories of the courthouse are six-over-six sash. Graduated in size, the tallest windows are on the first floor.

Although the facade of the building, which faces south, has the main entrance, the doorway most frequently used as an entrance is on the west elevation. This has evolved primarily because the front of the building now faces Highway 67, the major four-lane highway through Newport, and the parking facilities are on the west.

A protruding central bay is centered on the west elevation. Double-doors each with three lites are topped by an inscribed stone plaque that reads, "Jackson County Courthouse - Erected 1892, Remodeled 1939." Atop the bay is a pediment. Within the pediment is a round-topped, louvered window.

On the north elevation is the only addition to the building. A three-storey flat-roofed structure with decorative frieze was added during the remodeling process of 1939. This houses the county health facilities.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE one

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The interior of the courthouse appears basically unaltered. All rooms retain their original dimensions and woodwork, but the tile floors are not original and the walls, probably once plastered, have been sheetrocked. Occupying the first floor are the county clerk's office, county judge's office, and tax collector's office. On the second floor are the state revenue and motor vehicle office, prosecuting attorney's office, witness room, jury room and the courtroom. The courtroom has very attractive paneled woodwork in the jury box and on the witness stand. The wainscoting is also paneled. On the third floor are the veteran's services and voter registration offices.

The Jackson County Courthouse is one of the state's oldest. When constructed in 1892, it was located in the center of the commercial and business district of Newport. Since then the growth pattern of Newport has somewhat decentralized the location of the courthouse, but it is still located in the heart of downtown Newport.

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 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

1892

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

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.

Jackson County was formed in 1829 from the southern part of Lawrence County. The town of Litchfield served as county seat from 1831 until 1839 when the seat of justice was moved to Elizabeth. Neither of the communities is still existent. In 1852 Augusta became the county seat, but when Augusta became a part of Woodruff County in 1854, Jacksonport was selected to be the county seat.

Jacksonport developed as the first sizable population center of the county, primarily due to its strategic location on the White River. The White River was the most important transportation system in north-central Arkansas at the time. Ironically, the same element responsible for Jacksonport's growth, transportation in general, also was responsible for its eventual demise.

By the 1870's the railroad emerged as one of the most important stimuli to the growth of cities in Arkansas. In 1873 the Cairo and Fulton Railroad approached the city of Jacksonport with a proposal to locate the major station between Little Rock and Poplar Bluff, Missouri, there if the city would invest the initial sum of \$25,000 to cover the cost of the project. The city officials wanted the train station but did not want the expense incurred.

Newport was established as the principal station in 1873, and the town experienced its own period of growth. By 1880 Newport had surpassed Jacksonport in population and the issue of moving the courthouse from Jacksonport to Newport was first seriously considered. The residents of the county were slow to approve the removal to Newport, however, because of the almost new brick courthouse located at Jacksonport.

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In 1892 work began on the courthouse at Newport. No record is available concerning the architect, but the plans for the courthouse were patterned after the Ouachita County Courthouse at Camden. The two buildings, though not identical bore a remarkable resemblance. The Ouachita County Courthouse was replaced in 1933 with a more modern one. The cost of the Jackson County Courthouse totaled \$44,196.

In 1939 the citizens of Jackson County voted to remodel the courthouse. An addition was made to the west elevation; it now houses the county health services. General repairs to the interior were also made at this time, but the remodeling did not produce any drastic changes in the appearance of the interior of the building.

The significance of the Jackson County Courthouse at Newport is both architectural and historic. One of the most attractive as well as one of the oldest of the courthouses, it is one of the most impressive public buildings in Jackson County. The courthouse also reflects the growth of Newport and demise of Jacksonport, as an outgrowth of the transportation growth-patterns in the county. Transportation patterns probably played the single most important role in the early development of the county. Though the Jackson County Courthouse is not situated on a courthouse square, it still occupies a central position in the business and commercial section of the older downtown area of Newport.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Newport Daily Independent, Centennial Edition, August 11, 1975.
Pen and Pencil Sketch of Jackson County 1893. On file at Ark. History Commission.
Processed Manuscripts of the Jackson County Historical Society. Edited by James Logan Morgan. Vol I, 1975. Stuckey Collection at Ark. History Commission.
Works Progress Administration Files. Jackson County. On file at Arkansas History Commission.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre
 UTM REFERENCES

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
	6 5 5 0 6 5	3 9 4 0 1 1 7				
			D			

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

Donna DuVall

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

6-8-

STREET & NUMBER

300 West Markham

TELEPHONE

501-371-1639

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

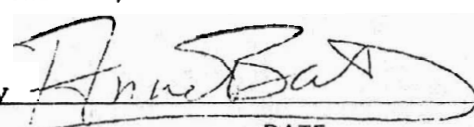
NATIONAL ___

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 Anne Bartley



TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

6-8-76

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Jackson County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Newport

___ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Jackson

STATE

Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Donna DuVall

DATE OF PHOTO 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

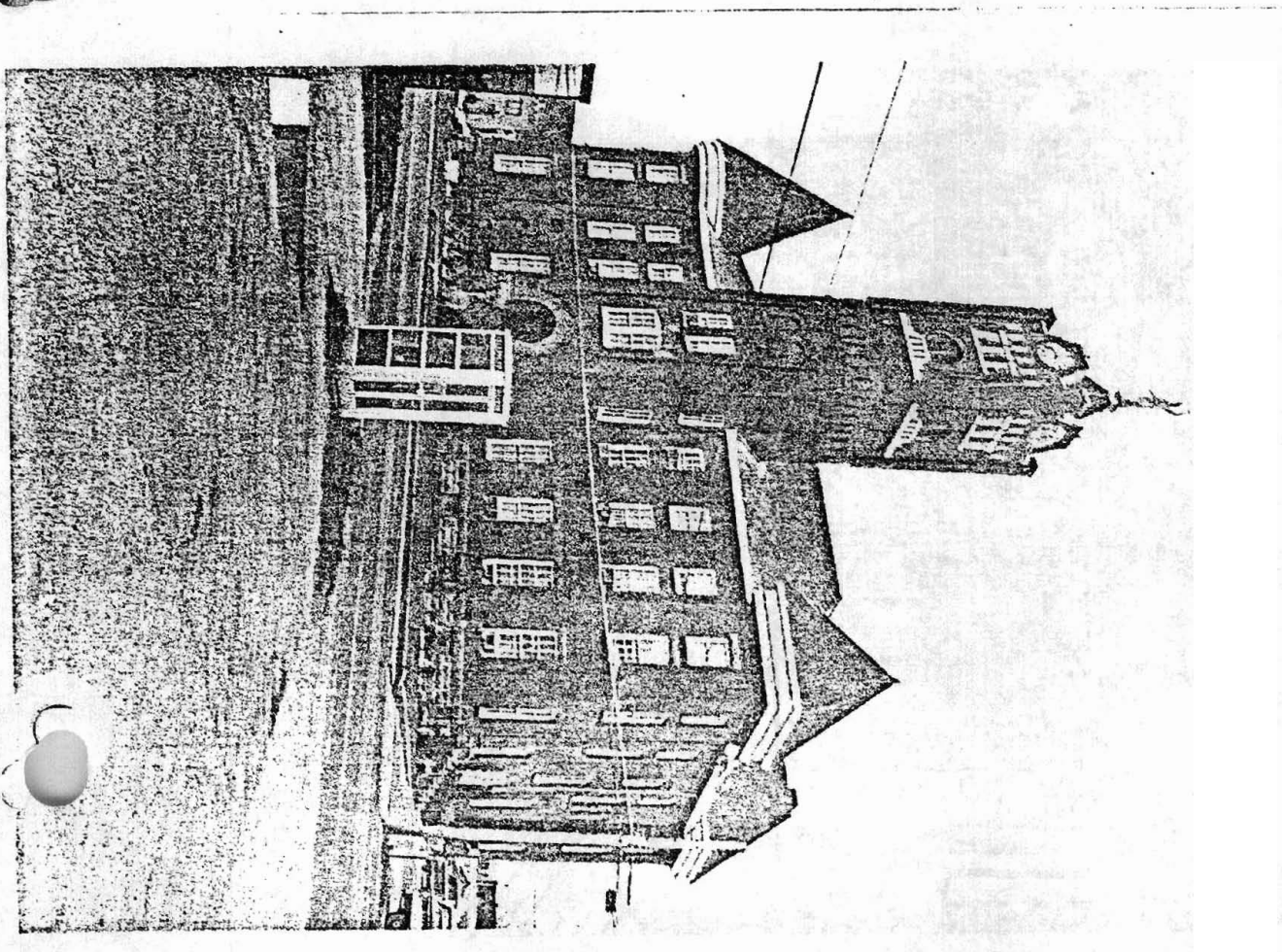
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

View of facade, which faces south.

PHOTO NO.

1

INT: 2983-75



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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CITY, TOWN

Newport

— VICINITY OF

COUNTY
Jackson

STATE
Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

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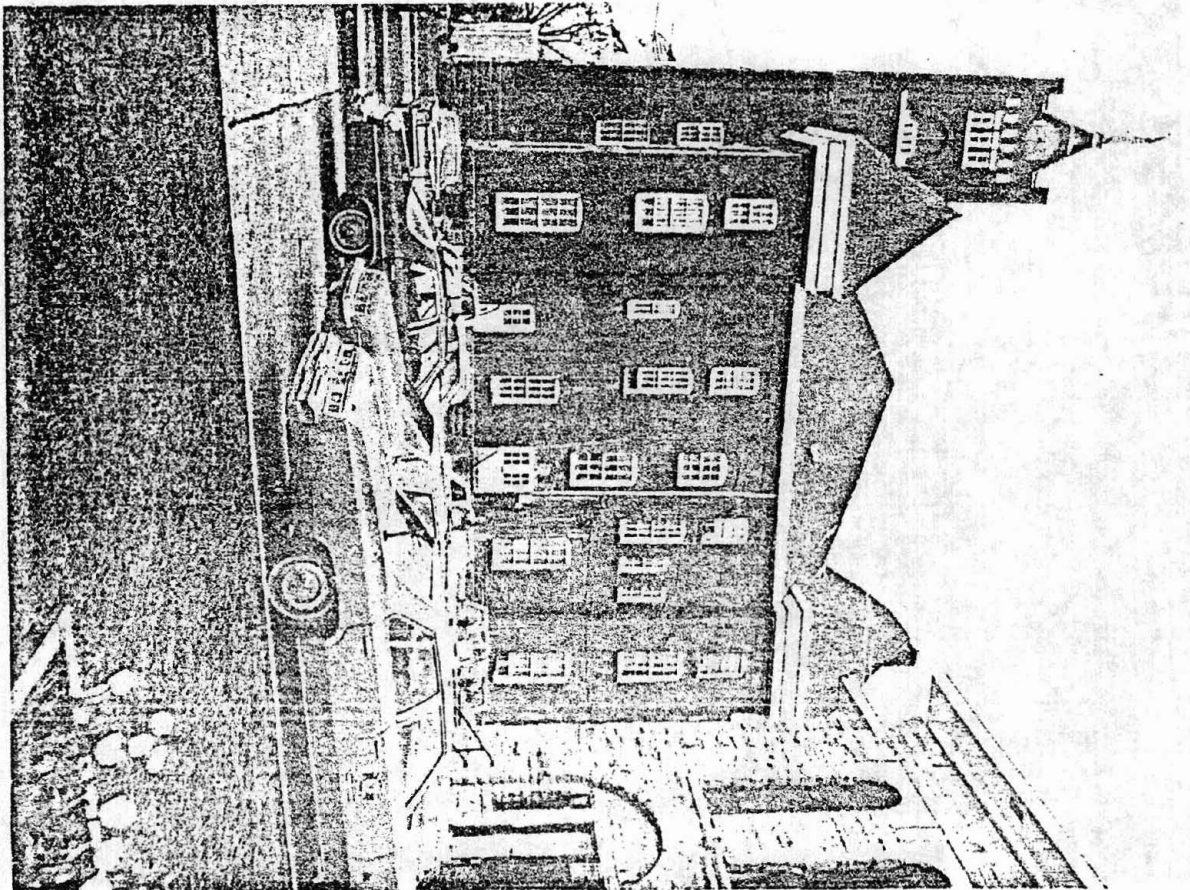
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

View of eastern elevation

PHOTO NO.

2

INT: 2983-75



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

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Jackson County Courthouse

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2 LOCATION

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Newport

____VICINITY OF

COUNTY
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STATE
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3 PHOTO REFERENCE

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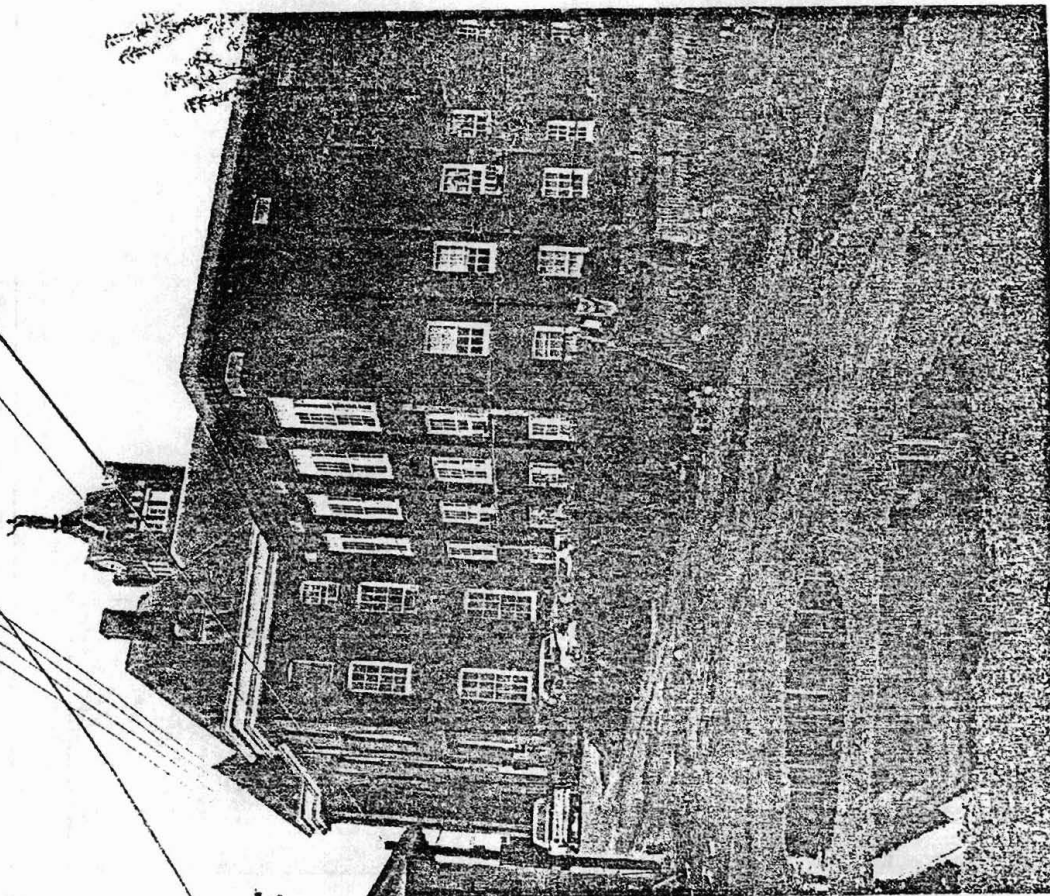
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

View of northern elevation.

3

INT: 2983-75



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PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Newport

___VICINITY OF

COUNTY
Jackson

STATE
Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Donna DuVall

DATE OF PHOTO 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET
View of western elevation.

PHOTO NO.
4

INT: 2983-75



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*
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1 NAME

HISTORIC

Jackson County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Newport

___VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Jackson

STATE

Arkansas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE United States Geological Survey

SCALE 1:62500

DATE 1962

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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



Jackson County Courthouse
Newport, Arkansas

UTM References
15/655 065/3940 117

40'
TUCKERMAN 11 MI
3947
FOXIE 31 MI
30 MI TO ARK 91
15
3943
7755 II
2.4 MI TO JUNC. ARK
HARRISBURG VIA ARK 141
30 MI
3940
3939
35'
3938

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REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jackson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

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STATE

Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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 Jackson County Courthouse at Newport, constructed in 1892, is a three-storey, Victorian, red-brick structure, resting upon a rusticated-stone foundation. Architecturally the structure is significant because it represents a finely preserved example of a typical governmental building around the turn of the century.

The square clock tower, located atop the protruding center bay of the facade, is the most distinguishing architectural feature. The first floor of the three-storey tower features an arched entrance. The massive building stones and short supportive columns give the entrance a heavy, Romanesque appearance. Each of the steps within the umbrage leading to the wide double doors is inscribed "Jackson County Courthouse-1892." Marbled tile extends halfway up the wall surface of the umbrage while the remainder is bricked. Sidelites and a large transom with vertical mullions separating the transom into five segments decorate the double, glass entrance doors. Double, rectangular windows on the second storey of the bay are topped with a decorative lintel. The third storey has small, plain, rectangular windows, each topped by a pair of arched, louvered windows. The clock tower rises from the corbelling of the bay. Each elevation of the tower is identical, having a round, louvered window, a set of three windows and a clock. The tower has square piers at each corner and a statue on top. From the high hipped roof of the main body of the courthouse rises a tower on each of the four corners. The towers on the southeast and northwest elevations are pyramidal in shape. The tower on the southwest elevation has a conical-shaped roof. The remaining tower on the northeast elevation has a hipped roof. The windows on all three stories of the courthouse are six-over-six sash. Graduated in size, the tallest windows are on the first floor.

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SIGNIFICANCE

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		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1892 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

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.

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TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC Jackson County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Newport VICINITY OF COUNTY Jackson STATE Arkansas

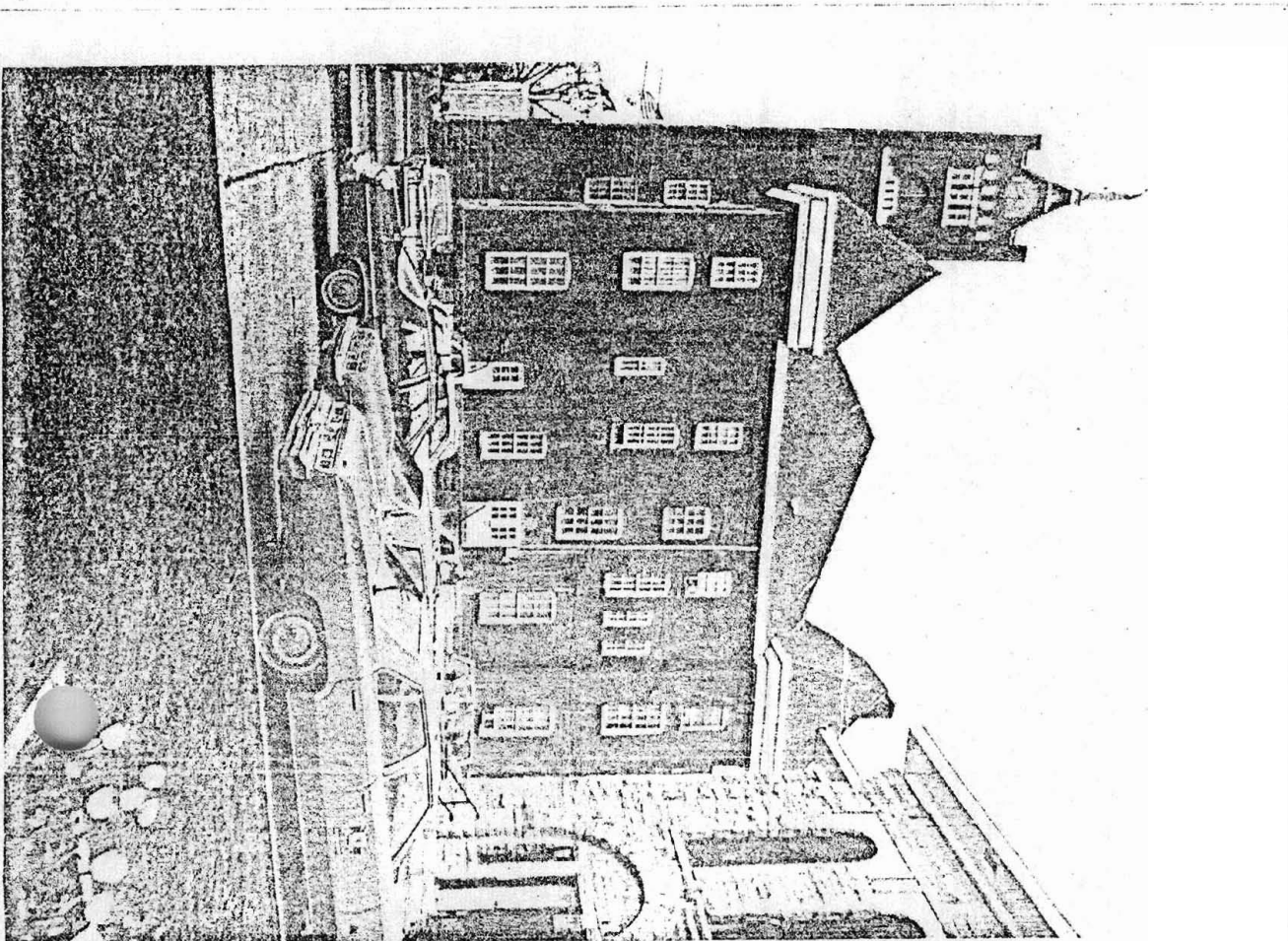
3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Donna DuVall DATE OF PHOTO 1976
NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET PHOTO NO.
View of eastern elevation 2

INT: 2983-75



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Jackson County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN	_____ VICINITY OF	COUNTY	STATE
Newport		Jackson	Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Donna DuVall

DATE OF PHOTO 1976

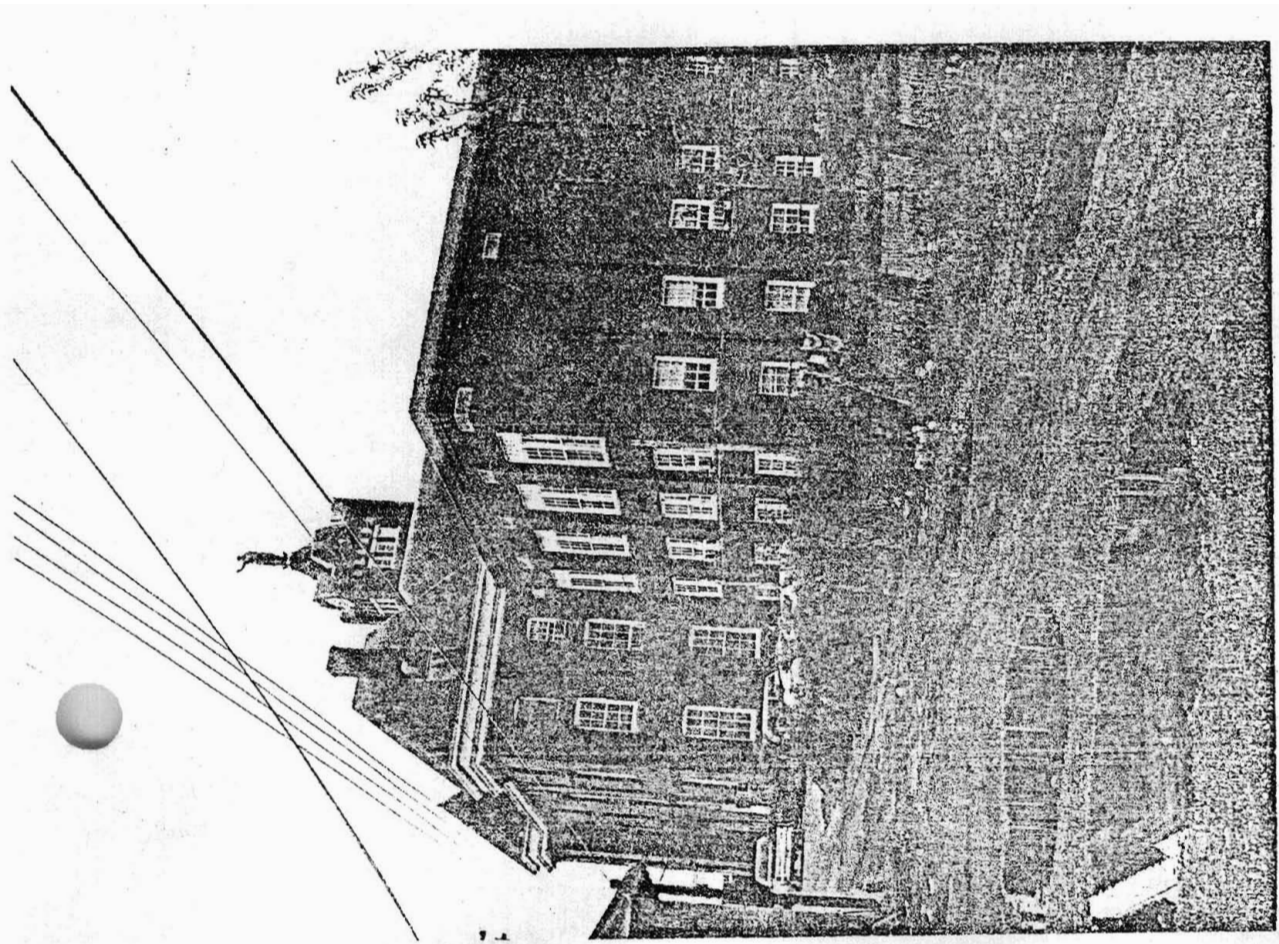
NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET
View of northern elevation.

PHOTO NO.
3

INT: 2983-75



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

1 NAME
HISTORIC Jackson County Courthouse
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION
CITY, TOWN Newport VICINITY OF COUNTY STATE
 Jackson Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE
PHOTO CREDIT Donna DuVall DATE OF PHOTO 1976
NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET PHOTO NO.
View of western elevation. 4

INT: 2983-75



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DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Jackson County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Newport

____VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Jackson

STATE

Arkansas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE United States Geological Survey

SCALE 1:62500

DATE 1962

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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

Jackson County Courthouse
Newport, Arkansas

UTM References
15/655 065/3940 117

