

Listed in the N.R. 6-8-82

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

For HCRS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Lonoke County Courthouse

and/or common

2. Location

street & number North Center Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Lonoke

N/A vicinity of

congressional district Second

state Arkansas

code 05

county

Lonoke

code 085

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 Lonoke County

street & number Post Office Box 431

city, town Lonoke

N/A vicinity of

state Arkansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Circuit Clerk's Office

street & number Lonoke County Courthouse

city, town Lonoke

state Arkansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
title County Courthouse Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1976

federal state county local

depository for survey records Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

city, town Little Rock

state Arkansas

7. 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

SUMMARY

Typical of the siting of Arkansas courthouses, the Lonoke County Courthouse is set back on the well manicured grounds of the traditional courthouse square where it exerts an appropriately monumental presence in the surrounding community. Built in 1928, the four story symmetrical brick structure with full basement, lofty parapet and cast stone details is the work of Little Rock architect H. Ray Burks. The architect drew from several stylistic phases to create this eminently Neo-Classical building whose details comfortably combine the vocabulary of Classicism with the decorative spirit of the twenties. Here, Classical scale and proportions, a colossal Doric order and a Georgian inspired principal entrance complement geometrically designed cast stone panels and decorative brickwork to contribute to the creation of a "modern" county courthouse building.

ELABORATION

The seven-bay principal (west) facade of the Lonoke County Courthouse is the most impressive of the building's elevations, successfully conveying the architectural eminence of the courthouse as a public building type. The building is raised above grade on its basement story with cast stone banding defining the ground floor from the first floor and a heavy cast stone base encircling the building at grade level. This arrangement contributes to the monumentality of the structure. The corner bays of the principal elevation both anchor the facade and frame the Classically-derived portico that articulates the building's principal entrance. Each of the corner bays features pairs of two-story tall, narrow round-arched openings consisting of six-over-six double-hung windows at first floor level and six-over-three windows with semicircular transoms in the second floor elevation. A cast stone moulding with articulated still defines the entire window element and cast stone panels of a geometric design featuring a diamond shape imposed on a background of receding rectangles differentiate the first and second floors. Decorative brickwork fills the narrow space between the two vertical openings. The brick veneer that flanks these central elements projects slightly further accentuating the corner bays with their pilaster-like appearance. These "pilasters" have cast stone bases and carry a paneled frieze. A series of two concrete panels, one visually dropping from the other, that terminate in a pendant drape from the entablature to embellish the pilasters. Two nine-light windows in heavy cast stone surrounds penetrate the ground floor facade of the corner bays.

The vertical rhythm established by the articulation of the corner bays is echoed in the courthouse's five-bay portico. Composed of four freestanding and two engaged two-story tall columns derived from the Doric order, the portico provides a dramatic entrance to the courthouse. A simple cast stone balustrade runs between the columns sheltering the narrow entry porch. The courthouse's centrally situated principal entrance is a focal point in this formative facade. A range of cast stone steps, slightly wider than the building's center bay, leads to the Roman-arched double-leaf entrance with fanlight transom. Cast stone moulding with geometric relief design and cartouche decorated key-stone emphasize the principal entrance and beveled glass panels in an "art deco" design comprise the entry doors. Directly above the principal entrance a floor-to-ceiling

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height Roman-arched window set behind a Classically detailed balcony, less than one bay in width, enhances the center axis of the facade. This second floor window, reminiscent of Georgian Revival style fenestration, is comprised of two sets of ten-by-ten casements surmounted by four stationary eight-light panels and capped with a multi-light transom. Fenestration of the second floor of the remaining four bays in the principal facade repeat this ambitious design while the first floor fenestration is composed of pairs of rectangular six-over-six windows. Decorative cast stone panels with a foliated design separate the first and second story windows but stretcher bricks defining the line of the Roman-arched window openings make each bay's fenestration read as a complete, vertical unit. Ground floor windows correspond to the design of the first floor rectangular windows and exhibit the same cast stone surrounds that appear in the lower windows of the corner bays.

The solid anchoring corners and the contrasting voids of the colossal portico are united by the paneled cast stone frieze that wraps around three sides of the building. The words "Lonoke County Courthouse" appear in relief in the three center bays of the frieze. Above the frieze, the building's deep brick parapet wall with cast stone coping terminates the front elevation. Again, the principal entrance is emphasized by the design of the parapet which breaks to form a segmental-arched pediment at the center axis of the building. This pediment is embellished with a cast stone cartouche bearing the building's 1928 construction date in relief.

The side (north and south) elevations of the courthouse are identical. Both are three-bay compositions with the central bay projecting to articulate secondary entrances to the building. Each entrance is set back under a Roman-arched opening flanked by Doric columns carrying an unembellished cast stone entablature from which the arch springs. Decorative brickwork outlines the top of the cornice line and follows the profile of the arch. A cartouche articulates the keystone of the arch and extends upward to penetrate the parapet of the projecting entrance, another arch which sweeps upward to create a rectilinear corner. Additional decorative brickwork embellishes the front of this parapet wall. This central bay also articulates the interior vertical circulation core with its two upper stories projecting from the mass of the building but not extending as far forward as the entrance. Two windows light the stair corridor. This bay terminates in a parapet with central stepped gable and cross-shaped cast stone panel.

The end bays of the side elevations feature a distinctive solid/void pattern formed by the vertical rhythm of brick wall and fenestration. Each corner bay contains two vertical openings with nine-light windows in the first and second floors and six-light windows in the attic story. Cast stone surrounds define the vertical openings with panels appearing between the first and second story and attic windows. The panels below the attic windows are exuberantly decorated with art deco motifs. Decorative brickwork forming a string of diamond shapes appears in the wall between the windows. As on the principal facade, the paneled frieze and parapet wall cap the side elevations. On the sides of the building, however, the parapet wall is embellished with cast stone panels and breaks and rises on center axis.

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The rear (east) elevation of the Lonoke County Courthouse is the least distinguished of the building's elevations and the only one that has been altered. Two projecting corner bays correspond closely to the design of the front elevation's corner bays. The rear bays lack the cast stone panels and lower frieze that are featured on the front of the building. Similarly, the recessed five bays of the rear elevation exhibit the same fenestration of rectangular windows on the first floor and Roman-arched windows on the second floor as appear on the principal facade, but cast stone panels and frieze are absent here. The rear entrance to the building has been closed off with brick. Only its fanlight transom remains intact over a small window.

In plan, the Lonoke County Courthouse is quite straightforward with central foyers, double-loaded corridors, and north and south stair corridors. Very few changes have taken place within the structure since its construction. Although the design of the interior does not feature the lively art deco elements that enrich the exterior, the entrance foyer and first floor hallways are richly, somewhat Classically, articulated. Cornice mouldings, paneling and Roman-arched woodwork are featured above a marble wainscot. The entrance foyer is also enriched with a polychromed tile flooring. The ground and first floors of the building contain office space and the Circuit Courtroom, which was renovated in 1978, occupies most of the second floor. The County Jail which was originally located on the attic floor of the Courthouse was relocated in 1973 and this space remains unoccupied.

8. 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 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 1928 **Builder/Architect** H. Ray Burks

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Traditionally, the county courthouse has been a focal point for local government and political activity and a symbol of community identification and pride in Arkansas. Lonoke was established as the Lonoke County seat in 1873. Its first courthouse, a woodframe structure built in 1873, was destroyed by fire in 1881 and that building's 1883 replacement was torn down to make way for the present courthouse. Built in 1928, the Lonoke County Courthouse conveys the civic importance of the county seat even as the twentieth century progressed. In addition to achieving significance as the center of government for Lonoke County, an agricultural area in central Arkansas, the building is architecturally important as an example of the appropriately monumental public building type associated with the county courthouse building. The design of Little Rock architect H. Ray Burks, the courthouse reflects both the Classicism that dominated Arkansas' public buildings during the early years of the twentieth century and the decorative spirit of the architecture of the 1920s. Classically derived elements of the building, including the massive Doric columns of its front portico, its Roman-arched multi-paned windows and fanlight transomed doors, its paneled frieze and its distinctly elevated principal entrance, vest the building with strength and monumentality. These qualities are accentuated by the building's grand scale and rhythmic proportions that feature a distinctive solid and void pattern created by the relationship of brick walls juxtaposed against vertically oriented fenestration. Within this rigidly conceived Classical format, the architect has enlivened the composition with a variety of decorative cast stone panels whose design is well in keeping with the art deco taste of the era. The use of these decorative elements together with the architect's liberal interpretation of the Classical vocabulary results in a decidedly modern appearance for this county courthouse that is nonetheless in keeping with the traditional imagery of this building type in Arkansas.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Lonoke County Progress, a special newspaper edition produced in cooperation with and by the staffs of the Cabot Star-Herald, Carlisle Independent, England Democrat and Lonoke Democrat, June 7, 1973, p. 14d; Centennial Book, compiled by James B. Abraham, Commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the City of Lonoke and the County of Lonoke, Arkansas.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2.98 acres

Quadrangle name Lonoke Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

UMT References

A

1	5	6	0	0	6	5	0	8	8	4	9	6	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

1	5	6	0	0	6	5	0	3	8	4	9	7	2	5
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

1	5	6	0	0	7	0	0	3	8	4	9	6	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

1	5	6	0	0	7	0	0	3	8	4	9	7	2	5
Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

All of Block 13 and all of Block 20 in Wright's Addition, City of Lonoke

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ethel Goodstein, Architectural Historian; Don Brown, Historian

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date May 15, 1981

street & number Suite 500 Continental Building telephone (501) 371-2763

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title SAPO

date 3-5-82

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

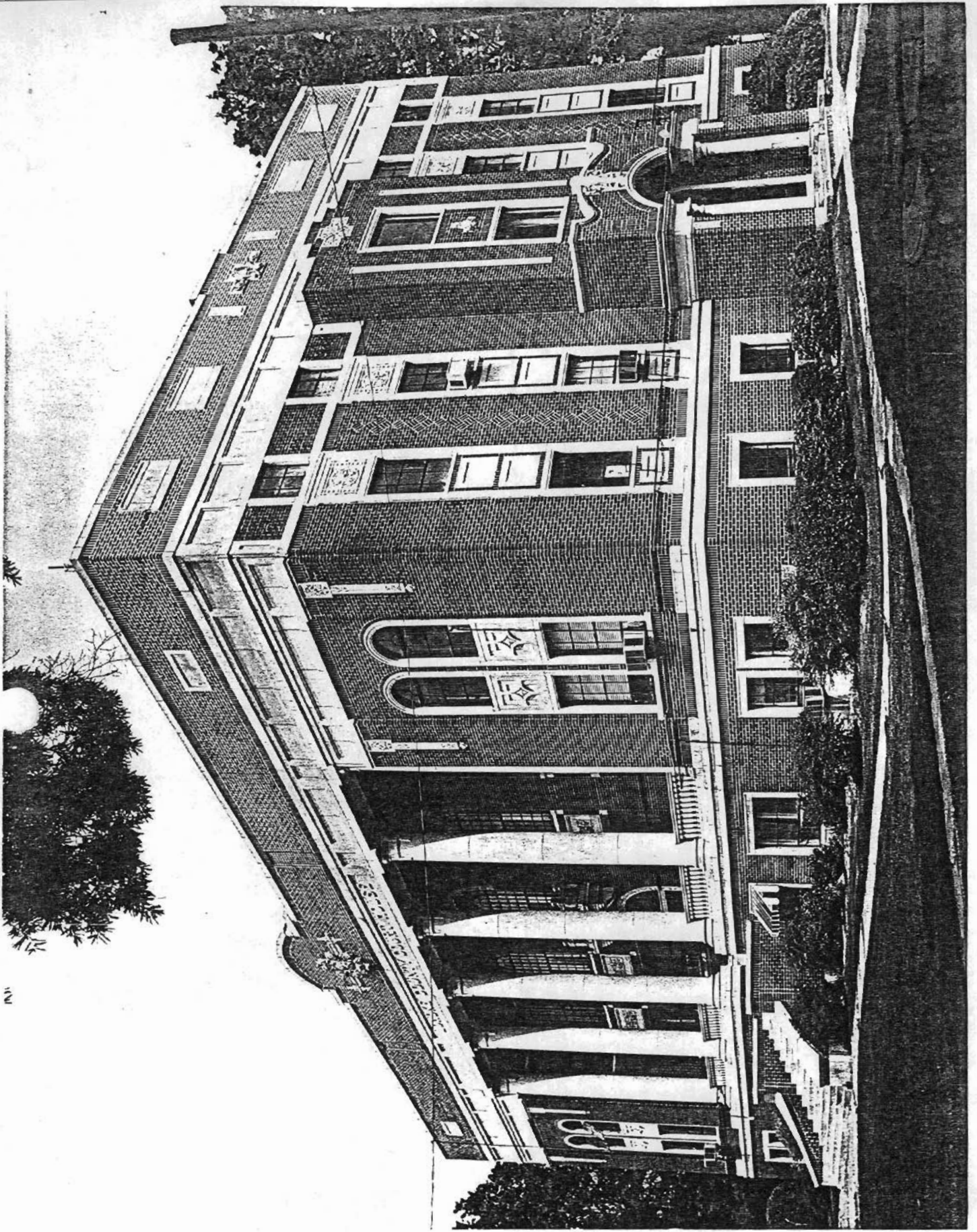
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



Lonoke County Courthouse
Lonoke, Arkansas
Bob Dunn, Photographer
May, 1981
Negative at Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program
View from northeast
Number 4 of 7

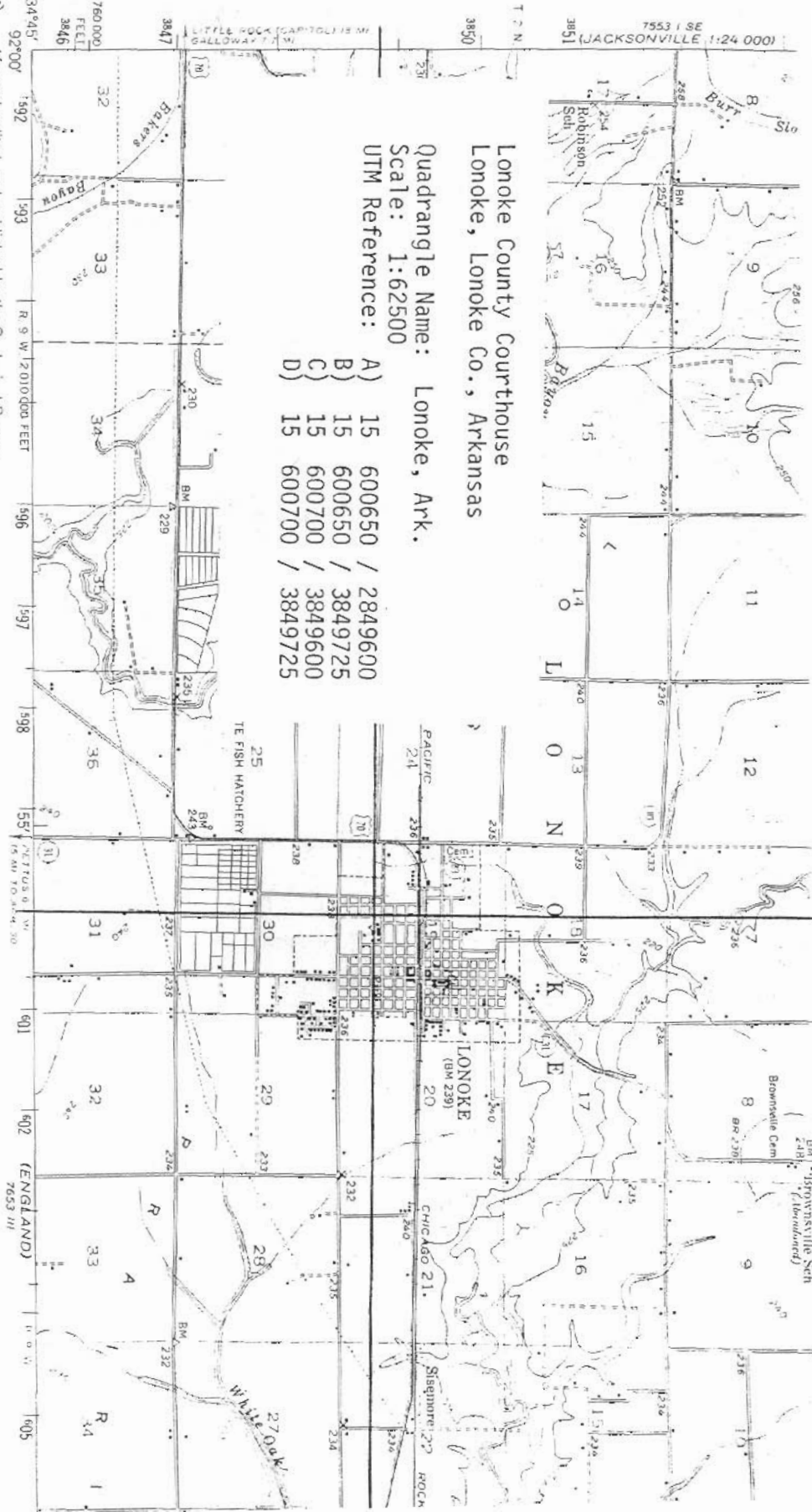


Lonoke County Courthouse
Lonoke, Arkansas
Bob Dunn, Photographer
May, 1981
Negative at Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program
West and south elevations viewed from
southwest
Number 3 of 7

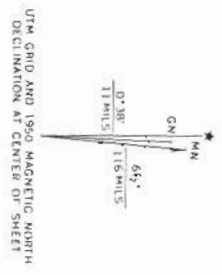
Lonoke County Courthouse
Lonoke, Lonoke Co., Arkansas

Quadrangle Name: Lonoke, Ark.
Scale: 1:62500
UTM Reference:

A)	15	600650	/	2849600
B)	15	600650	/	3849725
C)	15	600700	/	3849600
D)	15	600700	/	3849725



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by Arkansas Geological Survey, USGS, and USCS&GS
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
Topography by plane-table methods 1937-38
Culture revised 1950
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system,
south zone
Red tint indicates area in which only
landmark buildings are shown
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue



SCALE 1:62500
CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR WASHINGTON, D. C. :
AND BY THE ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

34°45' 120000
92°00' 1592

Handwritten notes and scribbles at the bottom of the page, including the number '24' and various illegible markings.