

49-05-11330-33

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NR 8-27-76

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

HISTORIC

Montgomery County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Court Square

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Mt. Ida

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fourth

STATE

Arkansas

VICINITY OF  
CODE

05

COUNTY

Montgomery

CODE

097

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

\_\_DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

\_\_AGRICULTURE

\_\_MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

\_\_PRIVATE

\_\_UNOCCUPIED

\_\_COMMERCIAL

\_\_PARK

\_\_STRUCTURE

\_\_BOTH

\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS

\_\_EDUCATIONAL

\_\_PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_RELIGIOUS

\_\_OBJECT

\_\_IN PROCESS

\_\_YES RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_TRANSPORTATION

\_\_NO

\_\_MILITARY

\_\_OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Montgomery County

STREET & NUMBER

Court Square

CITY, TOWN

Mt. Ida

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Court Square

CITY, TOWN

Mt. Ida

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

Centered on the forested court square of rural Mt. Ida, the two-storey Montgomery County Courthouse is an unusual combination of classical and rustic architectural treatments. While the entrance (south elevation) is dominated by the classical arrangement of a pediment resting upon two large, pier-like pilasters, vernacular treatment of the classical theme shines forth in the composition of the tympanum of the pediment, which features imbricated shingling and a central oculus window, and most pointedly in the fact that the entire rectangular building was constructed of field stone set in a random pattern.

The Montgomery County Courthouse was built in 1923 according to the specifications of architect Clyde A. Ferrel. The building was originally rectilinear with a small bay projecting from the rear of the building. Among the major components of the courthouse are its hipped roof, regular arrangement of windows and double entranceway with transom. The interior has been modified in keeping with the needs of county government. In 1975 a sprawling one-storey addition was attached to the north elevation of the building, compromising the visual harmony of the structure.

# SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PRE-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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

1923

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Clyde A Ferrel

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The most impressive structure in the small town of Mt. Ida is the Montgomery County Courthouse building. It is a large, squarish, two-storey rock building that features uniform window fenestration, a double-leaf entranceway and a truncated hipped roof. Simple, yet bulky, classical detail embellishes the front (south) elevation of the building in the form of a large pediment, supported by two pier-like pilasters.

The architecture is rooted in the locale and in the people of Montgomery County. The pilasters sustaining the front pediment are formed with rough stone removed from local fields. In a similar fashion the function that the Montgomery Courthouse symbolizes is tied with the region and its inhabitants. The county government housed within the courthouse is the closest and most personal contact between the people of Montgomery County and representative democracy.

Montgomery County was formed in 1845, just nine years after the first white settlement appeared on the banks of the Ouachita near Mt. Ida. The seat of county government has always occupied the square in Mt. Ida where the current courthouse building stands. The field-stone courthouse now occupying the square was erected in 1923. Recently, however, the building lost some of its country charm when a sprawling one-storey addition was tacked on to the rear of the building.

County government is conducted by a body of officials, elected in a county-wide ballot, in conjunction with the Quorum Court. The officials who are elected by county-wide vote perform administrative and legislative duties, while the Quorum (or levying) Court is primarily responsible for county fiscal policy and the performance of minor judicial duties. Members of the Quorum Court are called Justices of the Peace, and they are elected by a specified number of electors who reside in townships encompassed by the county. Montgomery County has seven officials who are elected at-large in the county election. They are the county judge, county clerk, sheriff, assessor, treasurer, surveyor and coroner. Several appointees assist these county officials in their duties.

The primary functions and duties of county government are to assess and tax property for revenue; maintain county highways; help support a

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE one

county agricultural agent; provide a minimum standard of public health; supervise the ballots during county, primary and general elections; provide rural law enforcement; maintain a county jail; regulate the incorporation and boundary expansion of towns and cities; issue marriage licenses; systematically file records of deeds, mortgages, liens and bonds; and perform judicial duties in minor civil or criminal cases.

Several appointive boards, such as the Delinquent Tax Board and the Board of Equalization, perform services generally related to some aspect of fiscal review.

The county also serves to some extent as a basic administrative and judicial unit in state government. The Department of Welfare and the state auditorial department are active at the county level. Circuit, chancery and juvenile courts all hold hearings in the county courthouse.

As a rule in Arkansas, the county courthouse building is the most lavish public building within the county. This is certainly the case for the Montgomery County Courthouse in Mt. Ida. This emphasis upon size and detail reflects the importance which the citizens of each county place upon local government, for county government administers to basic local needs of the people, and by doing so has helped to determine patterns which history has followed in each region of the state.

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC      Montgomery County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN      Mount Ida      VICINITY OF      COUNTY      Montgomery      STATE      Arkansas

## 3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT      Mike Shinn

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

Courthouse viewed from the west

2

INT: 2983-75



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PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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AND/OR COMMON

**2** LOCATION

CITY, TOWN      Mount Ida      \_\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF      COUNTY      Montgomery      STATE      Arkansas

**3** PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT      Mike Shinn      DATE OF PHOTO      1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT      Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

**4** IDENTIFICATION

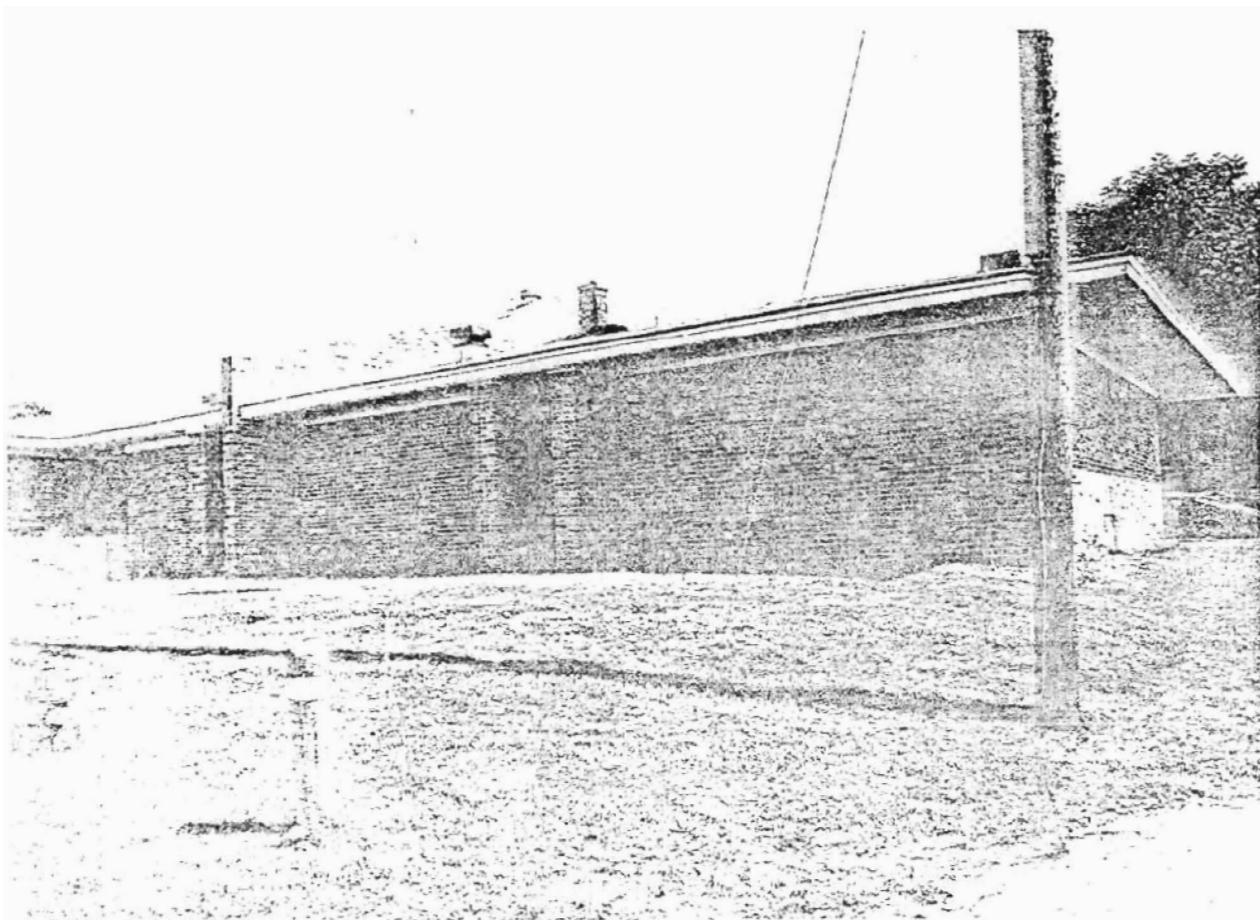
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO

New, rear addition to the courthouse viewed from the north

3

INT: 2993-75



# MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arkansas Almanac, 1972 Edition. Little Rock: Arkansas Almanac Inc., 1972/  
 County Government Across the Nation, Ed. by Paul W. Wagoner. Chapel Hill: University  
 of North Carolina Press, 1950.

## GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	44,21,1,0	3,82,40,0,0	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

Mike Shinn, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

June 8, 1976

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

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 June 8, 1976

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

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HISTORIC Montgomery County Courthouse

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**LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN Mount Ida VICINITY OF COUNTY Montgomery STATE Arkansas

**PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT Mike Shinn

DATE OF PHOTO 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

**IDENTIFICATION**

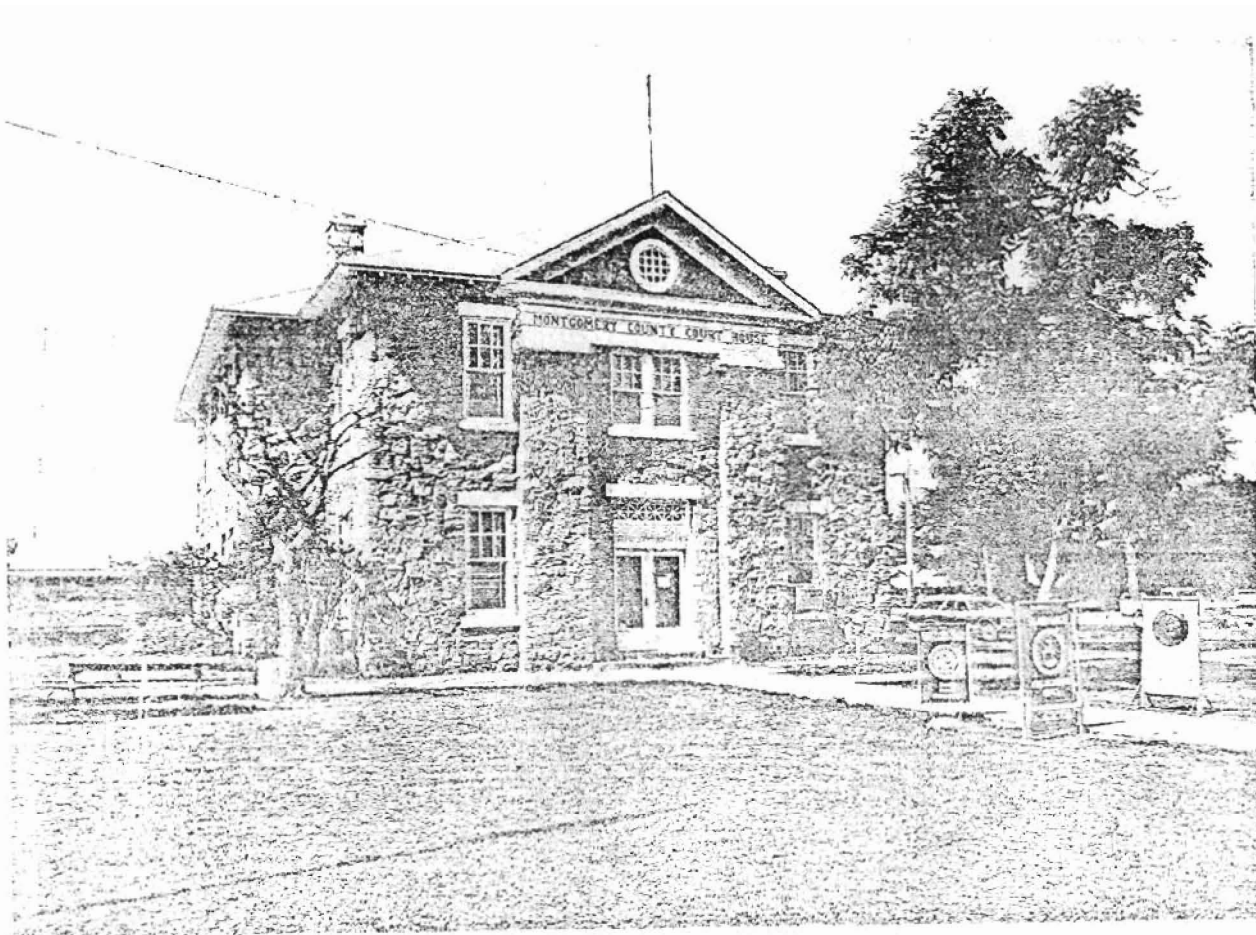
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

Courthouse viewed from the south.

1

INT: 2983-75





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PHOTO CREDIT Mike Shinn

DATE OF PHOTO 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

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

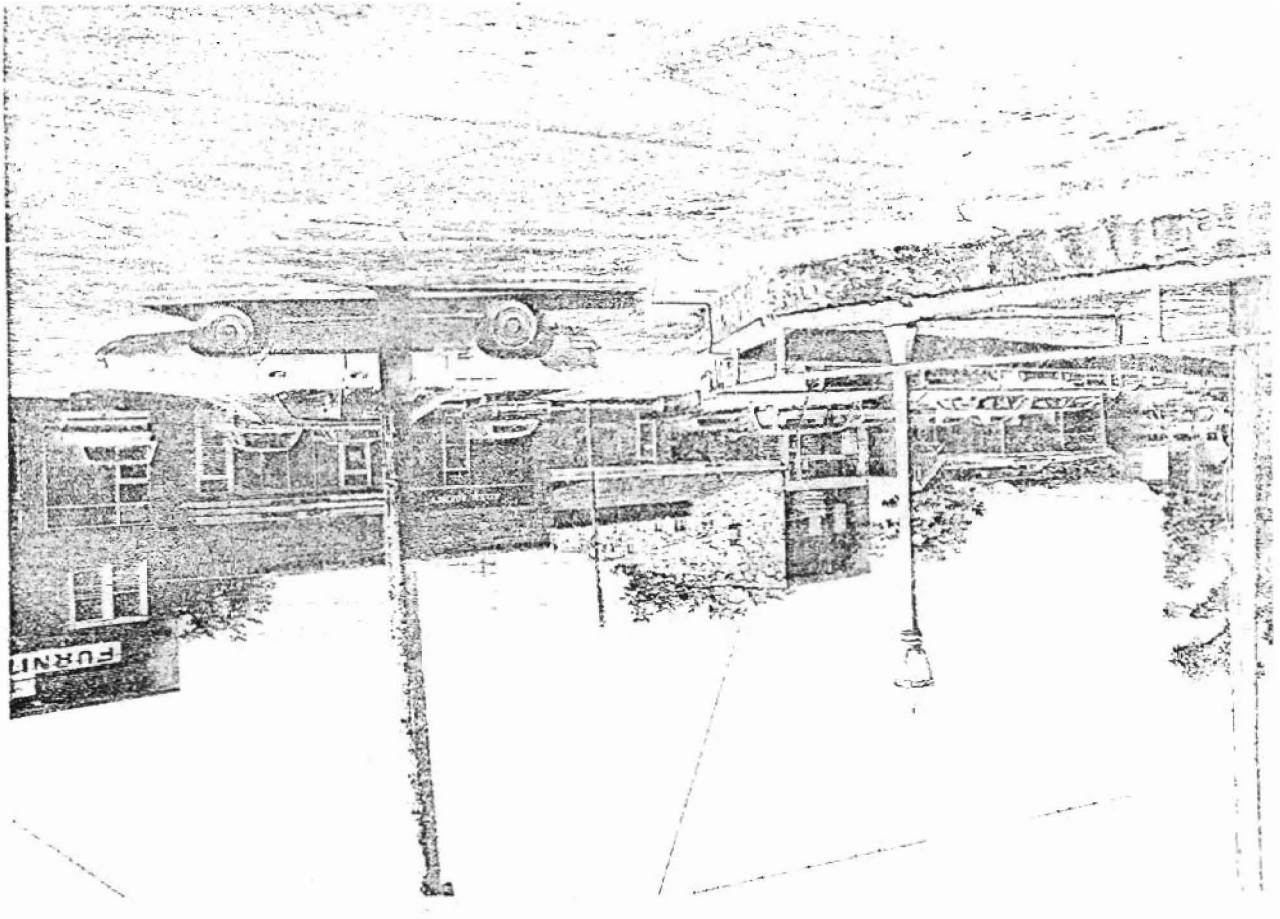
PHOTO NO.

Courthouse viewed from the east

4

INT: 2983-75





INT: 2998-72

PHOTO NO. 5  
 DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET  
 The town of Mount Ida looking south from court square

**IDENTIFICATION**

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

PHOTO CREDIT Mike Shinn  
 DATE OF PHOTO 1976

**PHOTO REFERENCE**

CITY, TOWN Mount Ida  
 VICINITY OF  
 COUNTY Montgomery  
 STATE Arkansas

**LOCATION**

AND/OR COMMON

HISTORIC Montgomery County Courthouse

**NAME**

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

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 PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

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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      Montgomery County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

**2** LOCATION

CITY, TOWN      Mount Ida      VICINITY OF      COUNTY      Montgomery      STATE      Arkansas

**3** MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE      USGS, Mount Ida Quadrangle

SCALE      1:62500      DATE      1959

**4** REQUIREMENTS

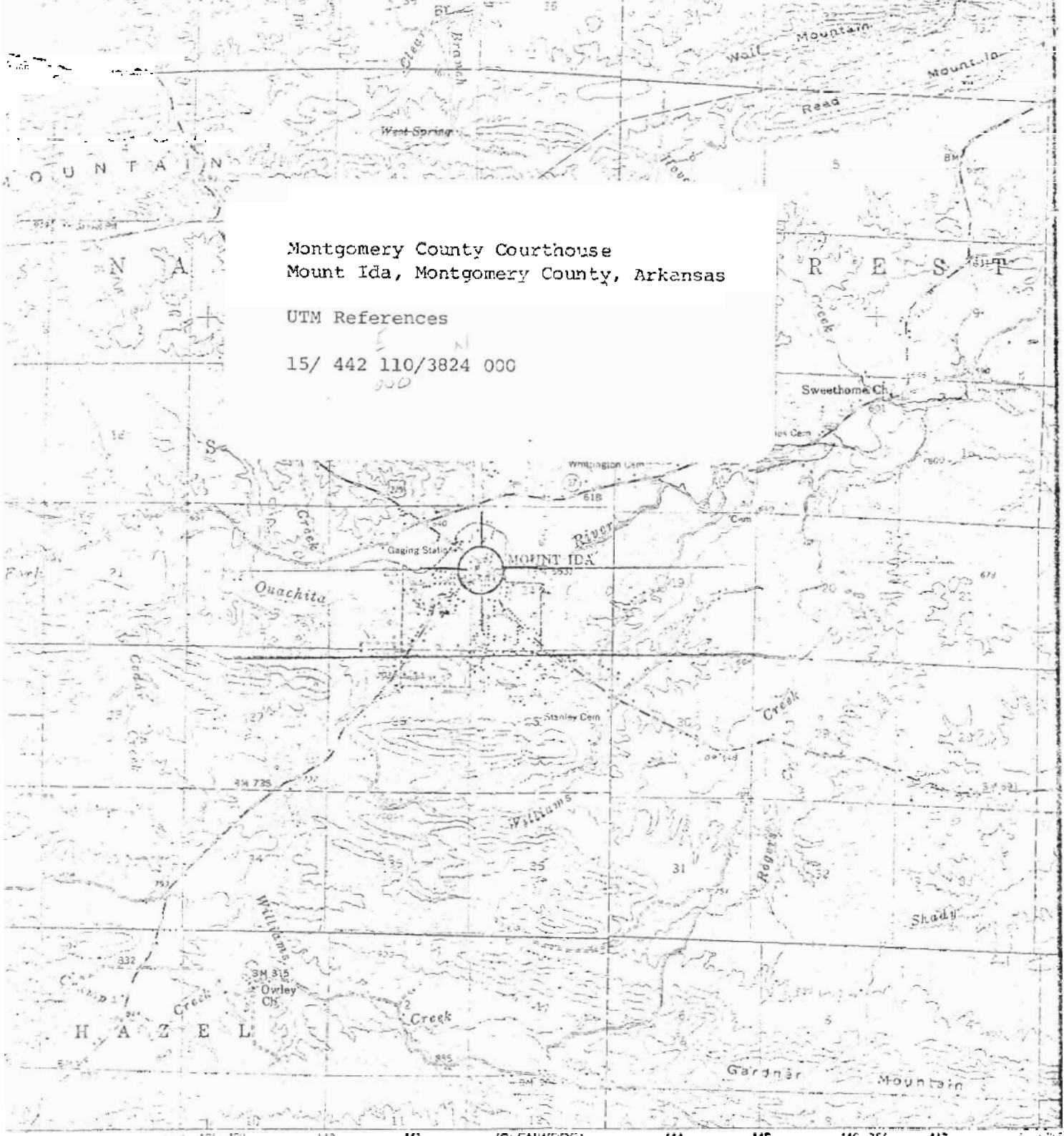
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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

Montgomery County Courthouse  
Mount Ida, Montgomery County, Arkansas

UTM References

15/ 442 110/3824 000



(GLENWOOD)  
7252  
SCALE 1:25000

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAPS ACT STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80202 OR WASHINGTON, D.C. 20022  
AND BY THE ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201  
FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

AR 15  
3824  
QUADRANG.