

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
ENTRY -- NOMINATION FORM

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Mississippi County Courthouse
Osceola, Arkansas

370

AND/OR COMMON

Osceola Courthouse

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Hale and Poplar

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Osceola

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First Congressional District

STATE

Arkansas

CODE

05

COUNTY

Mississippi

CODE

093

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mississippi County, Arkansas, c/o A. A. "Shug" Banks, County Judge

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Blytheville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Circuit Clerk's Office, Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Hale and Poplar

CITY, TOWN

Osceola

STATE

Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

74 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated in the center of Osceola is the Mississippi County Courthouse which can be viewed from any part of the city. On the premises are numerous large trees and shrubbery, a monument dedicated to Judge William J. Driver, one dedicated to the Confederate Veterans and a sign which tells of the County seat's origin. The structure is of the Neo-Classical style.

The first floor was once used as the Mississippi County Jail. There are no windows and the walls are constructed of plaster. The floor is laid with a beige colored tile and there are seven rooms presently used as storage space and offices.

The second floor contains nine offices which have eight foot double hung windows with 1/1 lights. There is a double staircase which is symmetrical about the north and south axis and meets at a central landing on the third floor. The stairs are constructed of marble and the railing is of wrought iron with a wood hand rail. The floor is truly the work of a well-experienced tile decorator. It is constructed of inlaid ceramic tile. The walls are wain-scot with the lower portion being marble and upper portion being plaster. The walls are twelve feet in height with plastered ceilings.

The third floor offices have eight foot double hung windows with 1/1 lights. There are five eight foot double hung windows with 36/36 lights located on the center south wall. The floor is distinctive with inlaid stone of an oak leaf design. The Courtroom is decorated with terra-cotta cornicing and exposed beams. The beams have Roman olive branch decorations at each end. The floor of the Courtroom is carpeted with a light green level looped carpet.

The Courthouse Square is landscaped with an abundance of large oak trees and shrubbery. In the center front are two wrought iron lamps which are situated on either side of the front steps. The front has a full portico entrance with six thirty foot high, three foot in diameter, fluted Ionic columns. The exterior walls of the Courthouse have face brick extending to the foundation. Located beneath the roof's eave, terra-cotta decorations reach completely around the building. At each side is a one bay entrance with stone steps and wrought iron hand rails. The foundation of the Courthouse is one hundred feet long by fifty four feet wide. It is ten inches thick and constructed of stone.

The most distinguishing feature of the building is the roof. The east and west sides are gable shaped. The flat center section supports a solid copper dome. The dome is surrounded with terra-cotta decorations. Large round polished insets adorn each of the four faces of the dome.

The appearance of the Courthouse dome was altered some twenty years ago. Severe leakage through the dome onto the third floor forced County officials to paint it with asphalt paint. This action has detracted somewhat from the aesthetic qualities of the Courthouse, but the basic architectural beauty of the Courthouse is still evident.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	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 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 July 4, 1912 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Falls Construction Co/John Gainsford

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Osceola Courthouse, built in 1912, is significant for its fine architectural work on the interior and exterior portions of the building. The interior floors and exterior walls are of an embellish design. The stone tiles used to construct the floors and the terra-cotta decorations on the exterior are very rare to this area. Before the present Courthouse was built, Court was held in a very small wood frame building. As the County grew in population County officials found it necessary to construct a larger more suitable Courthouse. The old Courthouse was located in old Osceola, which is now the extreme east portion of new Osceola. The Honorable Judge William J. Driver, who was County Judge in 1912, donated a plot of land approximately one acre in size to construct the new Courthouse. The plot of land is located directly in the center of new Osceola.

There are few if any buildings in this area that have such great detailed architectural. The materials used are also of significant value. The columns and decorations which surround the building are constructed of terra-cotta, an unglazed clay that is rarely seen in this area. This is the only public building in the entire County that is decorated with this brownish-orange material. The floors are truly the work of an artist, carefully placed in a unique pattern are eight inch baked stone tiles. The various colors are red, blue, green and pink on the second floor, green, gray, rust and black on the third floor. In larger cities of this area one would not find floors of such design and beauty.

Located on the east side, across the street, is the Osceola Times building, the oldest building in Osceola. On the south side, across the street, is Fred G. Patterson's general store. Erected in 1902, this building remains without alterations in its original state. These two buildings contribute to the historical value of the Courthouse.

The Osceola Courthouse remains in its original state with the exception of the copper dome, which has been painted with asphalt paint due to leakage.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Edrington, Mable F. History of Mississippi County Arkansas: Mable F. Edrington. Ocala, Florida, The Ocala Star Banner, 1962.

Blackburn, Adah R. "Blue Mud Bark on the Mississippi Became Heart of County". The Commercial Appeal, 10 June 1925, p. 5 cols. 2-3.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. one (1) acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	15	231131210	39549010	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The certain plat of land, two hundred feet square, marked upon the record as a 'private square', bounded on the north by Johnson Avenue, on the south by Hale Avenue, and on the west by Walnut, the same being the Osceola Townsite Addition to the town of Osceola, Arkansas. In plat book three, page ten, the land is in the Northwest 1/4 of Section 36, Township 13 North, Range 10 East.

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 Archie R. Moore
Administrative Assistant

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Mississippi County Arkansas

February 15, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Courthouse

763-6675

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Blytheville

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

Donna Bartle

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

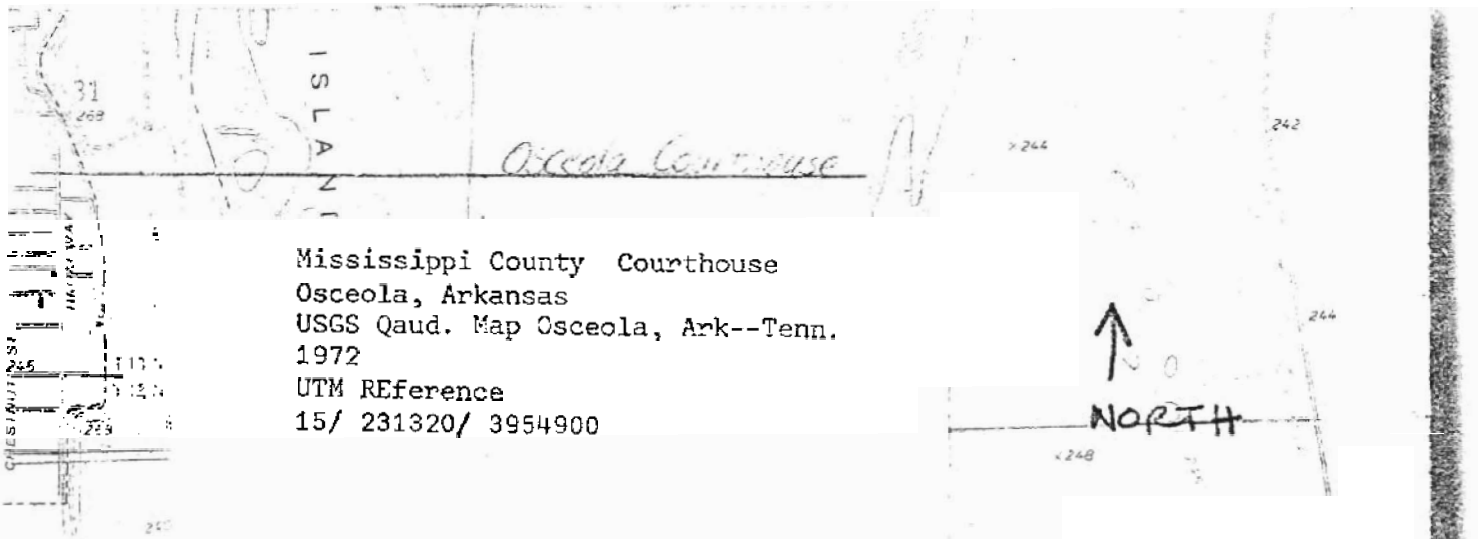
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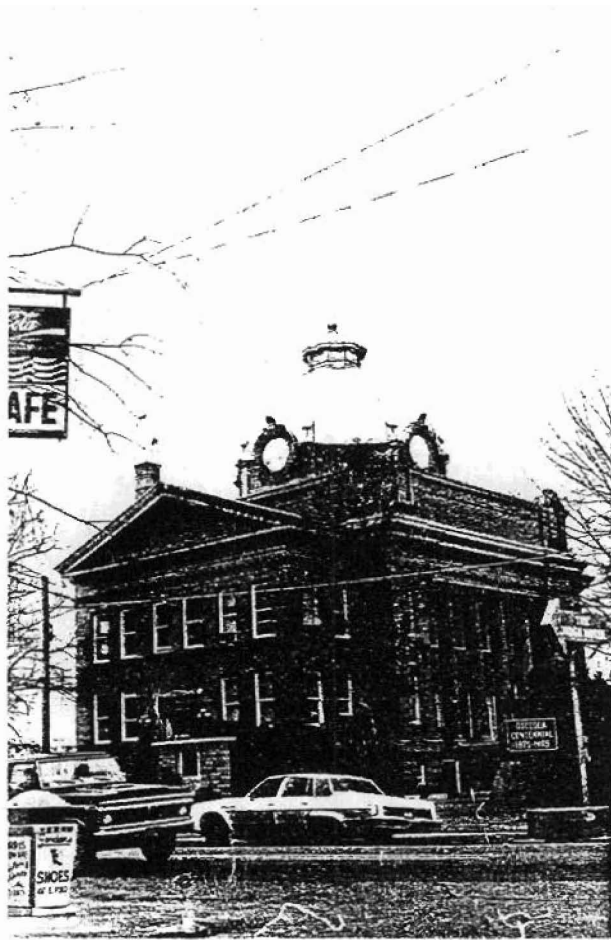
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

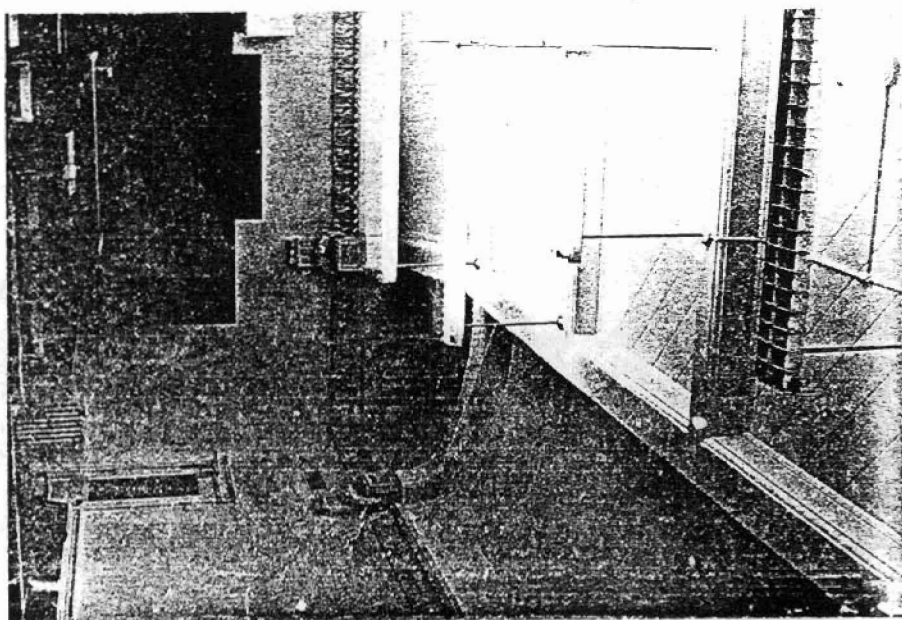
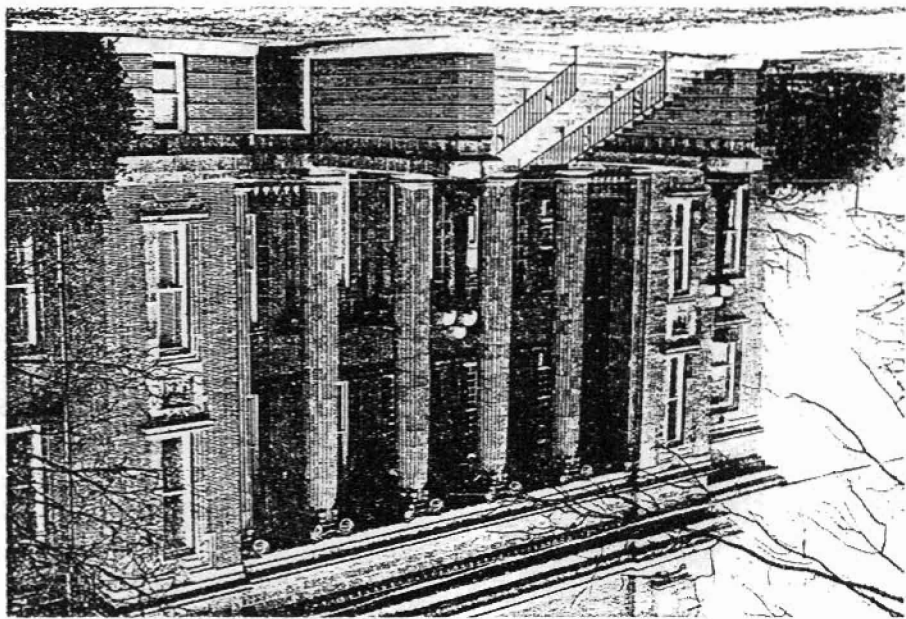
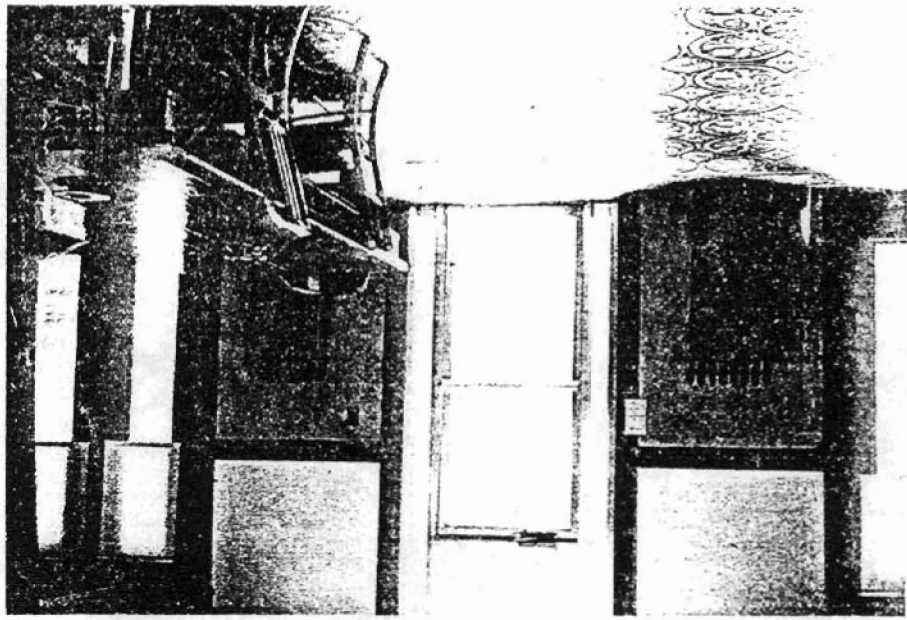
DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER









9. Major Bibliographical References - continued

Whitworth, Robin. Osceola, Oldest City in County. The Commercial Appeal, 10 June 1925, p. 5 cols. 2-3.

Interview with Richard Milton, Editor, The Osceola Times Newspaper. Osceola, Ark., 23 January 1978.

Interview with Earl Robbins, Owner, Robbins Brothers Farms. Osceola, Arkansas, 23 January 1978.

Interview with John Warriner, Office Manager, Cromwell, Neyland, Truemper, Levy and Gatchell, Inc. Blytheville, Arkansas, 10 January 1978.

Interview with Henry Patterson, Owner and Manager, Patterson's General Merchandise Store. Osceola, Arkansas, 22 December 1977.

Interview with Lillian Patterson, Housewife, 319 North Maple. Osceola, Arkansas, 22 December 1978.