

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Nevada Co. - Prescott
Prescott City Jail
Alley behind City Hall @ 118 W. Elm St.
NR 9/28/05

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Prescott City Jail

other names/site number Site #NE0079

2. Location

street & number In the alley behind City Hall at 118 W. Elm Street

not for publication

city or town Prescott

vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Nevada code 099 zip code 71857

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination
request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic
Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets
does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant

nationally statewide locally (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Cathie Maeth

7/28/05

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined eligible for the
National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the
National Register.

removed from the National
Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Prescott City Jail

Name of Property

Nevada County, Arkansas

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of Contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/Correctional Facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/Plain/Traditional

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls CONCRETE

roof CONCRETE

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

LOCAL

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

LAW

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1912-1955

Significant Dates

1912-1955

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

Architect/Builder

Southern Structural Steel Company, builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

Prescott City Jail

Name of Property

Nevada County, Arkansas

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Less than one.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 464627 3740325
Zone Easting Northing
2

3
Zone Easting Northing
4

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

date May 19, 2005

street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street

telephone (501) 324-9787

city or town Little Rock

state AR

zip code 72201

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Prescott

street & number PO Box 676

telephone

city or town Prescott

state AR

zip code 71857

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY

The Prescott City Jail is located in an alley behind City Hall on West Elm Street in the heart of downtown Prescott, the county seat of Nevada County, Arkansas. The small, one-story building is built out of reinforced concrete and rests on a continuous reinforced concrete foundation. The flat roof of the building is also constructed of reinforced concrete. The openings in the building have grates of interlocking flat metal strips and there is no window glass. The opening on the front of the building is also covered by heavy metal shutters.

ELABORATION

The Prescott City Jail is located in an alley behind City Hall on West Elm Street in downtown Prescott, Nevada County, Arkansas. The small building is one story tall and is built out of reinforced concrete. In addition, it rests on a continuous reinforced concrete foundation and is crowned by a flat reinforced concrete roof. Ornamentation on the building is minimal and includes simple concrete pilasters at the corners and a projecting concrete cornice. Window openings in the jail only have grates of flat metal strips and have no window glass. The opening on the front of the building is also covered by heavy metal shutters.

The building's interior is strictly utilitarian in nature. It is divided into three rooms (a lobby space and two cell rooms) and contains a total of three metal cage cells. Two bathroom areas with toilets and sinks are also present. All interior walls are reinforced concrete.

Front/Southeast Façade

The front façade of the jail has a single window opening in the center of the façade. The window opening has an interlocking grate of flat metal strips and is covered with two large, two-panel metal shutters that can be locked from the outside. There is no window glass and it is believed that it has always been that way. To the right of the window opening is the door into the jail. The doorway has a metal door frame and a large metal door. A small hinged shutter covers an opening that has a small semi-circular shelf with metal bars located in the center of the top of the door.

The building's front façade has a pilaster at each corner and a projecting watertable at the base of the window opening. In addition, a projecting concrete band spans the space between the pilasters at the top of the window opening. In the recessed panel above the band and below the projecting concrete cornice, another smaller recessed rectangular panel has a metal sign that reads "PRESCOTT CITY JAIL."

Side/Northeast Façade

The jail's northeast façade is fenestrated by three evenly-spaced window openings located slightly to the right of the façade's center. Like the window opening on the front façade, each opening has an interlocking grate of flat metal strips although they do not have shutters. Again, there is no window glass and it is believed that they have always been that way.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

As with the front façade, the side façade has a pilaster at each corner and a projecting watertable at the base of the window openings. In addition, a projecting concrete band spans the space between the pilasters just above the top of the window openings. A recessed rectangular panel is located above the band and below the projecting concrete cornice in between the two pilasters.

Rear/Northwest Façade

The jail's rear façade almost abuts up against the wall of City Hall next door. Originally, there were two window openings on the rear façade, one towards each end of the façade, but they have been boarded up. As with the northeast façade, the rear façade has a pilaster at each corner and a projecting watertable at the base of the window openings. In addition, a projecting concrete band spans the space between the pilasters just above the top of the window openings. A recessed rectangular panel is located above the band and below the projecting concrete cornice in between the two pilasters.

Side/Southwest Façade

Although the building originally had three window openings on the southwest side that mirrored those on the northeast side, they were enclosed in 1938-1939 when the City Hall was built next door. The southwest façade of the building currently has no fenestration and abuts the wall of City Hall next door.

Interior

The interior of the jail is divided into three rooms, all with concrete floors, walls, and ceilings. When one enters the jail through the front door, the first space encountered is a bare lobby area. To the left of the lobby is the second room, which contains one cell and a bathroom area, and is separated from the lobby by a door like the jail's front door. The single cell, which is located to the left as one enters the room, has walls comprised of the interlocking grate of flat metal strips. The cell also has a metal cot suspended from the outside wall that can be folded up against the wall. The bathroom area is located to the right of the cell as one enters the room and contains a metal toilet and metal sink.

Approximately the rear two-thirds of the building is occupied by the third room, which is accessed off the lobby through a doorway with a door like the jail's front door. As one enters the room, two more jail cells are located to the left and they project into the middle of the room. The two cells have walls comprised of the interlocking grate of flat metal strips, although a wall of solid metal panels separates the two cells. Both cells have metal cots suspended from the walls that can be folded up against the walls. Around to the rear of the two cells is the second bathroom area, which also contains a metal toilet and metal sink.

The interlocking metal grates used in the construction of the jail cells and the grates covering the window openings are a variation of the "interlocking-bar grating for jails" patented by David Franklin Youngblood of the Southern Structural Steel Company. His patent, which was #714,350, granted November 25, 1902,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

covered the design of the interlocking bar grating as well as the design for using the system for diagonal jail bars, which prevented them from being spread apart to aid in an inmate's escape. Although the grates used in the Prescott City Jail do not employ the diagonal aspect of Youngblood's design, they do use the interlocking bars of his design, which in itself makes a stronger jail cell bar.

Integrity

Overall, the Prescott City Jail retains remarkable integrity. Changes to the building itself have been minor, and have included boarding up the two rear windows and enclosing three side windows, which were done when the City Hall was constructed around the northwest and southwest sides of the building in 1938-1939. In addition, the metal shutters that would have covered the windows on the building's northeast side have been removed. The building's interior has remained unchanged.

The biggest change to the building's integrity is a change in the building's setting. According to the September 1913 Sanborn map for Prescott, the area around the jail was open land. Currently, the building is crowded by the City Hall, which was built in 1938-1939. However, the change occurred more than fifty years ago, and illustrates the growth of government in Prescott. Prescott has remained a small town, and the overall setting of the jail remains a small-town setting like it would have been when the building was built in 1912.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

SUMMARY

The Prescott City Jail, which is located in the alley behind City Hall at 118 West Elm Street, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C** as an excellent intact example of an early twentieth-century reinforced-concrete jail. Built in 1912 by the Southern Structural Steel Company of San Antonio, Texas, the Prescott City Jail is a good example of the company's work, and also illustrates a variation on its patented interlocking bar grating. The jail served the Prescott community from late 1912 or early 1913 until the 1960s, and is also being nominated to the National Register with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its associations with governmental activities and law enforcement in Prescott.

ELABORATION

White settlement was slow to come in present-day Nevada County. Initially, the area around Prescott was part of the Missouri Township in Hempstead County. After only a slow trickle of land patents in the 1820s, the acquisition of government lands began in earnest in 1837—after statehood and after it became obvious that the Red River would be opened to navigation. Purchasers of lands included small farmers as well as southern planters who used slave labor and had the means to acquire large tracts. During the antebellum period, the scattered village of Moscow appeared along the Camden to Washington Road just outside the present-day city limits of Prescott. Prairie D'Ane and Moscow would be the sites of significant clashes between Union and Confederate forces during the Camden Expedition in the spring of 1864.¹

Nevada County was formed in 1871 during the Reconstruction period. The county is composed of portions of Ouachita, Hempstead and Columbia counties, and it is named for the silver-rich western state. The first county seat was located at Mt. Moriah for about a year and then relocated to Rosston. In 1873, the Cairo and Fulton railroad was built through present-day Prescott, and completed to Texarkana in early 1874.²

A survey crew from the Cairo and Fulton Railroad platted out the town of Prescott on August 8, 1873, and settlement quickly began. The town was incorporated in October 1874, and became the county seat in 1877. Thomas Allen and Henry Gurdon Marquand, the president and vice-president respectively of the Cairo and Fulton, named the new town for William Hickling Prescott, the distinguished historian from Boston and a man whom they had both admired. In 1874, the Cairo and Fulton railroad was re-organized and became the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railway. About 1915, the Iron Mountain merged with the Missouri Pacific. In 1980, the Union Pacific superseded the Missouri Pacific.³

¹ Peggy Lloyd and Sarah Jampole. "De Ann Cemetery, Historic Section, Prescott, Nevada County, Arkansas." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. From the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 2005, p. 8-1.

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

In 1890, a group of Prescott businessmen, in an attempt to stimulate growth, formed the Prescott and Northwestern (P & NW), a shortline railroad that continues to exist today. The Ozan Lumber Company, owned by the Bemis Family, came to Prescott from East Texas in the early 1890s and soon acquired the P&NW. This company and lumber interests along with agriculture would dominate Prescott's economy for decades. Prescott became one of the most important shipping points for timber, fruit, produce, ore and cotton coming from the back country between Texarkana and Little Rock. In the 1960s, Potlatch bought out the Ozan Lumber Company. The large Potlatch mill remains an important industry in Prescott to this day.⁴

In Nevada County's early history, there was not a lot of crime. It was reported in Goodspeed's *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas* that, "The criminal record of Nevada County has not been extensive. Several murders have been committed, and among the murderers was one Albert Trammel, a colored man, who was legally executed at Rosston in 1873, for the murder of his wife. This is the only legal execution of a criminal that has taken place in the county. Some of the other offenders have been tried and punished in the penitentiary, one or two escaped justice by flight, and some were found 'not guilty.'"⁵

However, by 1896 there was enough crime in Prescott to necessitate the construction of a jail, or "lock up" as it is referred to on the Sanborn map. It was constructed on the courthouse lawn at the northeast corner of Vine and East 3rd streets, but by 1911 the jail was apparently in pretty bad shape. A November 20, 1911, article in the *Prescott Daily News* reported that a burglary occurred at the home of Martin W. Greeson, a member of the Prescott City Council and an active participant in Prescott's municipal affairs. The family silver was taken during the burglary, and although the thief was caught and the silver recovered, the thief ended up escaping from the city's jail.⁶

The city had already been looking at the possibility of erecting a new jail when Greeson's burglar escaped late in 1911. On September 6, 1911, the *Prescott Daily News* reported that the City Council had purchased a 75' x 150' lot from Anders Monson at the corner of Elm Street and Second Street with the intention of erecting a city building with city offices, council chamber, city jail, and fire department. R. P. Hamby, who took office as Mayor of Prescott in 1912, signed a deed to Monson and agreed to pay for the land over a period of three years.⁷

Construction of a new jail was apparently the highest priority of the city after acquiring the land. A committee of alderman was selected to explore finding a design and builder for the new jail. City Council

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas*. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1890, p. 552.

⁶ Peggy Lloyd. E-mail to the author. 11 April 2005.

⁷ *Ibid.*

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

minutes approved April 2, 1912, state that, "The Jail Committee made their report and on motion of Ira Gee was accepted, which is as follows: We your committee recommend that the [proposal] for City Jail, furnished by the Southern Structural & Steel Co. [sic.] of San Antonio, Texas, be accepted, price of some \$2,250.00 when completed."⁸

Once the City Council accepted the plans for the jail, it then became necessary to figure out how to pay for it. The City Council passed several resolutions with respect to the jail at its April 15, 1912, meeting, which included:

Be it resolved by the City Council of Prescott, Ark. that the tax for dog licenses collected in the year 1912 be used by the City Treasurer for the purpose of paying warrants issued for building the new jail.

Be it resolved by the City Council of Prescott, Ark. that the committee appointed by the Mayor be and are hereby authorized to proceed with the construction of a City jail according to plans and specifications heretofore approved by the City Council.

...Be it resolved by the City Council of Prescott, Arkansas, that the Mayor appoint a committee for the purpose of auditing and checking up the account of the Ex Marshall and that any balance found due the City be collected and used for the purpose of taking up out-standing warrants issued for paying for construction of the new City Jail.⁹

By the time that Southern Structural Steel Company was selected to build the Prescott City Jail, they already had fifteen years of experience in jail design and construction. The company, which is known today as Southern Steel Company, opened in 1897 on a 500 acres site in San Antonio. Its founder, David F. Youngblood, grew up in Pike County, Alabama, the son of a Confederate sergeant, and his interest in jail construction began early in life. At the age of fourteen, Youngblood began working for Hull Construction Company, a firm that specialized in jail construction, and in his early twenties, he moved to San Antonio to start his own manufacturing plant specializing in prison components and construction.¹⁰

⁸ City Council minutes for Prescott, Arkansas, 1912. Provided by Peggy Lloyd of the Nevada County Depot and Museum.

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ Dotter, Kara R. "Coke County Jail, Robert Lee, Coke County, Texas." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. From the files of the Texas Historical Commission, 2004, Section 8, page 9.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

Business prospered for Youngblood and he eventually hired his brothers James as vice president and George as secretary and treasurer. The company began manufacturing locking mechanisms completely designed and engineered by their own employees. David Youngblood was particularly prolific with innovative detention engineering, personally obtaining over a dozen U.S. patents for his designs. By the early twentieth century, the company was building high-quality jails, vaults, and other steel products, and the business was incorporated in 1903.¹¹

The company continued to produce innovative products after it was incorporated, including the first mechanical, continual-motion locking system, known as the 2700, which was brought onto the market in the 1920s. This system was installed at Rikers Island, New York, which was the largest steel-constructed prison in the nation at the time. By 1928, the success of Southern Structural Steel was highlighted with the addition of a sub-company that furnished specifications for detention projects, known as the Southern Prison Company. Before 1930, Southern Structural Steel was recognized as one of the largest employers in the state of Texas and as the largest detention-industry company in the nation.¹²

As World War II gripped the nation, Southern Structural Steel expanded its product line to include mine cases, gun shields, and tanks, in order to contribute to the war effort. As a result of their efforts, the company received the Army-Navy Production Award from the United States War Department on December 12, 1942, specifically for their exemplary record in producing war equipment. Following World War II, the company returned to the production of jails and detention equipment in order to deal with an increased demand following the war. The company also continued to be an innovator in the industry, holding 42 patents for detention engineering-related inventions by 1948.¹³

In the 1950s, Southern Structural Steel began developing new locking systems, including a motorized version of the 2700, especially with the development of electronically-operated locking mechanisms in 1955. Further advancements in design and technology led to the creation of key locks that opened and closed via remote control. The company remained under Youngblood family ownership until 1983 when Phelps, Inc., of Colorado bought the company from Hull Youngblood. Phelps changed the name of the company to Southern Steel, and shifted their focus into developing pneumatics and sliding door devices for the detention industry. The company remains in business today.¹⁴

The design that Southern Structural Steel proposed for the Prescott City Jail was somewhat innovative in its use of reinforced concrete construction. Although S. T. Ransom had patented a reinforced concrete wall in 1860, the first practical commercial development of reinforced concrete construction did not emerge until the

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

1890s with the promotion of it by Ernest Ransome. The new technology had several names, including armored concrete, ferro-concrete, concrete steel, and steel concrete, and the term reinforced concrete, which became generally accepted around 1910.¹⁵ Apparently, the use of reinforced concrete was also a fairly new technology for the Southern Structural Steel Company. In Texas, for example, of the 26 jails built by the company prior to 1916, only two, the Wheeler County Jail (built 1909) and the Coke County Jail (built 1907), used reinforced concrete construction.¹⁶ However, given the rickety nature of Prescott's previous jail, reinforced concrete construction was probably pretty appealing to the City Council.

Southern Structural Steel also used the Prescott City Jail to showcase a variation on David Youngblood's patented interlocking bar grating for the cells (Patent #714,350, granted November 25, 1902). In the documents that Youngblood submitted to the United States Patent Office, he wrote:

The present invention relates to gratings, and particularly to that class employed in jails. In these structures as ordinarily made upright and horizontal bars are provided which are located at right angles to each other, these bars being necessarily secured together at their points of intersection to prevent their being spread apart.

One of the objects of the present invention is to associate and combine the cross-bars so that the necessity of separate locks or rivets for securing them together at their intersections is obviated, at the same time the bars being shorter and consequently stiffer to withstand any lateral strain.¹⁷

Although the drawings that accompanied Youngblood's patent application illustrate the bars intersecting at an oblique angle, he also wrote that "...the degree of obliquity, however, being immaterial, though that shown is perhaps preferable, as the interlocking is stronger that if it was nearer a right angle."¹⁸ Even though the bars in the jail's cells are arranged at a right angle, they do illustrate the interlocking characteristics of Youngblood's patented design.

Once construction on the jail began, it did not take long to finish. A June 28, 1912, letter from R. P. Arnold, Ira Gee, and the members of the Jail Committee, stated that "We the jail Committee appointed by the Mayor and City Council of Prescott, Ark. have examined and inspected the Structure built by The Southern Structural Steel Co. and find the work has been done according to plans and specifications, as per our contract with them. We find it to be nice, neat and substantial in every respect and have accepted this

¹⁵ Thomas C. Jester (ed.). *Twentieth-Century Building Materials: History and Conservation*. Washington, DC: National Park Service, 1995, pp. 77-78.

¹⁶ Dotter, Section 8, page 10.

¹⁷ United States Patent Office. *Interlocking-Bar Grating for Jails*. Number 714,350. Issued November 25, 1902.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

structure.”¹⁹ By December 1912, construction was far enough along that at the December 2, 1912, City Council meeting, “Alderman Arnold authorized to put gas in the City Jail.”²⁰ Although it is not known when the jail was officially put into use, it was likely late in 1912 or early in 1913.

Even though the Prescott City Council had intended on erecting a city hall when the purchased the land for the jail in 1911, it was not until 1938 and 1939, with the assistance of the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works (commonly known as the Public Works Administration or PWA) that the city carried out its plans. Prior to the construction of the new city hall, it was necessary to enclose the three original windows on the jail’s southwest side, one of the few alterations ever carried out on the building.²¹

Probably the most significant event in the jail’s history occurred on September 21, 1958, when Patrolman Edward Virden was killed at the jail. Somehow a suspect that Virden had arrested for drunkenness was able to obtain a gun and kill Virden inside the jail. As a result of the crime, Virden was the only Prescott patrolman killed in the line of duty, and the suspect was sentenced to life in prison for the murder.²² The current plaque in the jail memorializes Virden.

Although it is not known for sure, it is believed that the jail was last used in the 1960s.²³ After that time, the building was used for storage until an effort was made to clean up the building in 2002. In 2002, an effort was spearheaded by the Prescott-Nevada County Chamber of Commerce to clean up the jail. The Chamber of Commerce spent \$3,000 to clean up the jail, restore it to its original condition, and put up the plaque that visitors see now.²⁴

Today, the Prescott City Jail is an interesting part of Prescott and Nevada County’s government and law enforcement past. The jail, with its reinforced concrete construction and patented elements developed by David Franklin Youngblood and the Southern Structural Steel Company, represented the latest technology in early-twentieth-century jail construction when it was built in 1912. In addition, the recent clean up and restoration efforts of the Prescott-Nevada County Chamber of Commerce are a testament to the importance of the building to the people of Nevada County.

¹⁹ R. P. Arnold, Ira Gee and members of the Jail Committee. Letter to The Southern Structural Steel Co. 28 June 1912. Courtesy of the Southern Steel Company, San Antonio, Texas.

²⁰ City Council minutes for Prescott, Arkansas, 1912. Provided by Peggy Lloyd of the Nevada County Depot and Museum.

²¹ 1939 photograph of the Prescott City Jail and Prescott City Hall site. Provided by Peggy Lloyd of the Nevada County Depot and Museum.

²² Peggy Lloyd. E-mail to the author. 17 March 2005, and Information on Patrolman Edward Samuel Virden found at www.odmp.org/officer.php?oid=13677.

²³ Peggy Lloyd. E-mail to the author. 17 March 2005.

²⁴ John Miller. “Council Informed on Economic Projects Underway,” *Nevada County Picayune*. 27 November 2002. Found at <http://www.picayune-times.com/editionlist.heitml?pubname=picayune&pubdate=2002-11-27&txt=t>.

Prescott City Jail

Name of Property

Nevada County, Arkansas

County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Prescott City Jail, which is located in the alley behind City Hall at 118 West Elm Street, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C** as an excellent intact example of an early twentieth-century reinforced-concrete jail. Built in 1912 by the Southern Structural Steel Company of San Antonio, Texas, the Prescott City Jail is a good example of the company's work, and also illustrates a variation on its patented interlocking bar grating. The jail served the Prescott community from late 1912 or early 1913 until the 1960s, and is also being nominated to the National Register with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its associations with governmental activities and law enforcement in Prescott.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1939 photograph of the Prescott City Jail and Prescott City Hall site. Provided by Peggy Lloyd of the Nevada County Depot and Museum.

Arnold, R. P., Ira Gee and members of the Jail Committee. Letter to The Southern Structural Steel Co. 28 June 1912. Courtesy of the Southern Steel Company, San Antonio, Texas.

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1890.

City Council minutes for Prescott, Arkansas, 1912. Provided by Peggy Lloyd of the Nevada County Depot and Museum.

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March 17, 2005

April 11, 2005

April 12, 2005

April 13, 2005

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Information on Patrolman Edward Samuel Virden found at www.odmp.org/officer.php?oid=13677.

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Miller, John. "Council Informed on Economic Projects Underway," *Nevada County Picayune*. 27 November 2002. Found at <http://www.picayune-times.com/editionlist.heitml?pubname=picayune&pubdate=2002-11-27&txt=t>.

Prescott City Jail

Name of Property

Nevada County, Arkansas

County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 2

Sanborn Maps for Prescott, Arkansas – 1896-1945.

United States Patent Office. *Interlocking-Bar Grating for Jails*. Number 714,350. Issued November 25, 1902.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

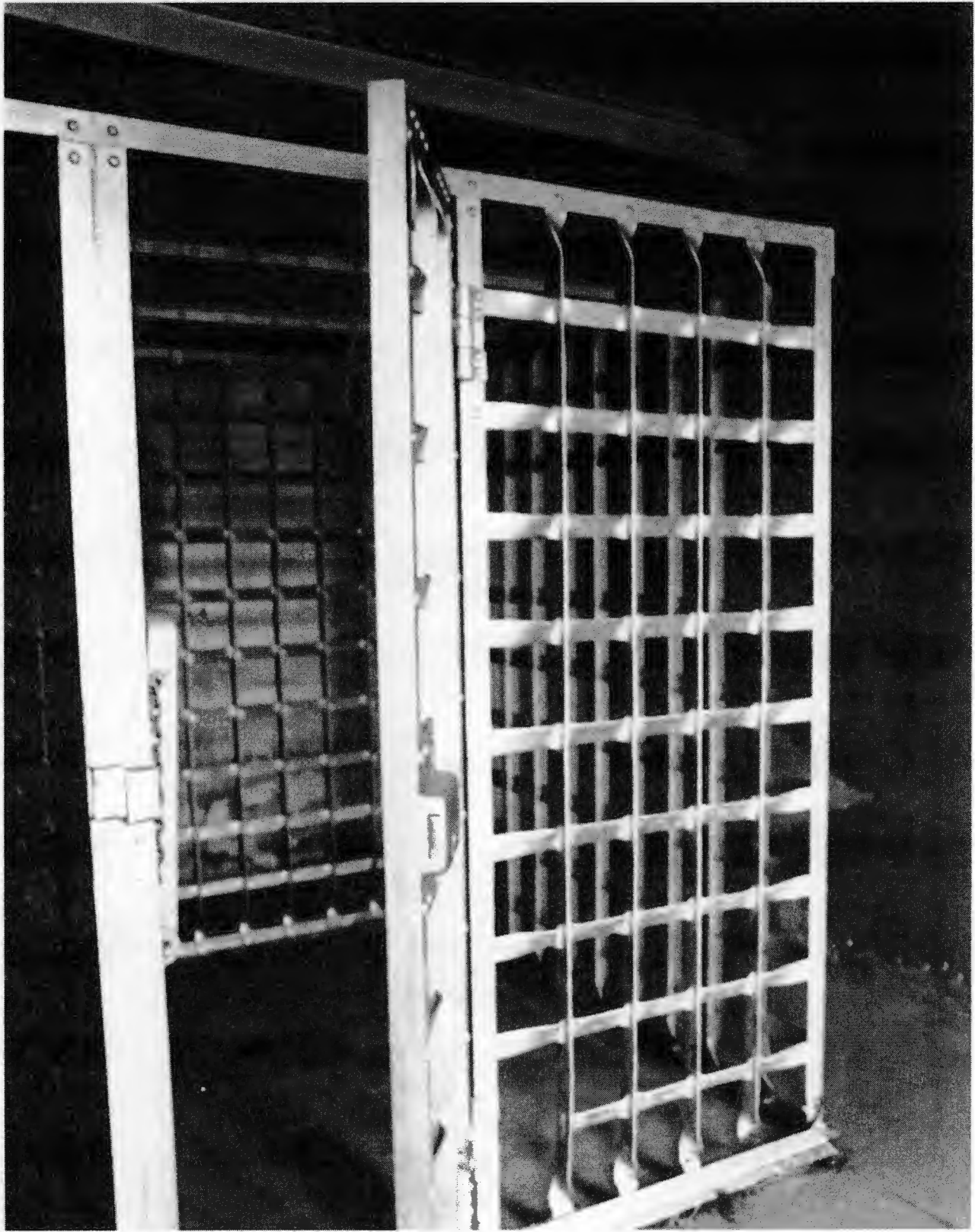
Section number 10 Page 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

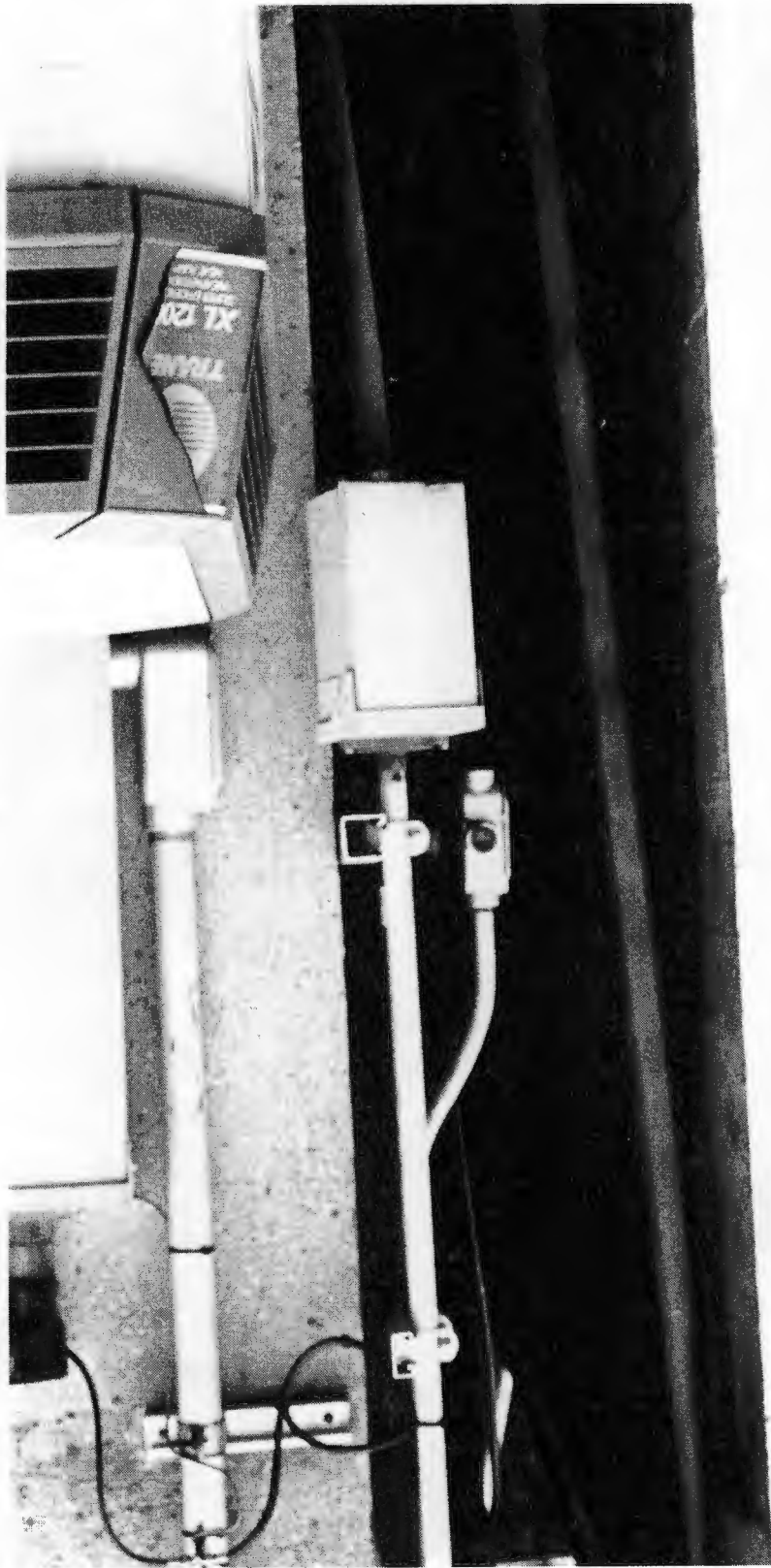
Beginning at the northeast corner of West Elm Street and the alley southeast of City Hall, proceed northeasterly 50 feet along the northwest side of the alley to the point of beginning. From the point of beginning proceed northeasterly 25 feet along the northwest side of the alley, thence proceed northwesterly 30 feet along the northeast side of the jail, thence proceed southwesterly 25 feet along the northwest side of the jail, thence proceed southeasterly 30 feet along the southwest side of the jail to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary contains the land that is historically associated with the Prescott City Jail.

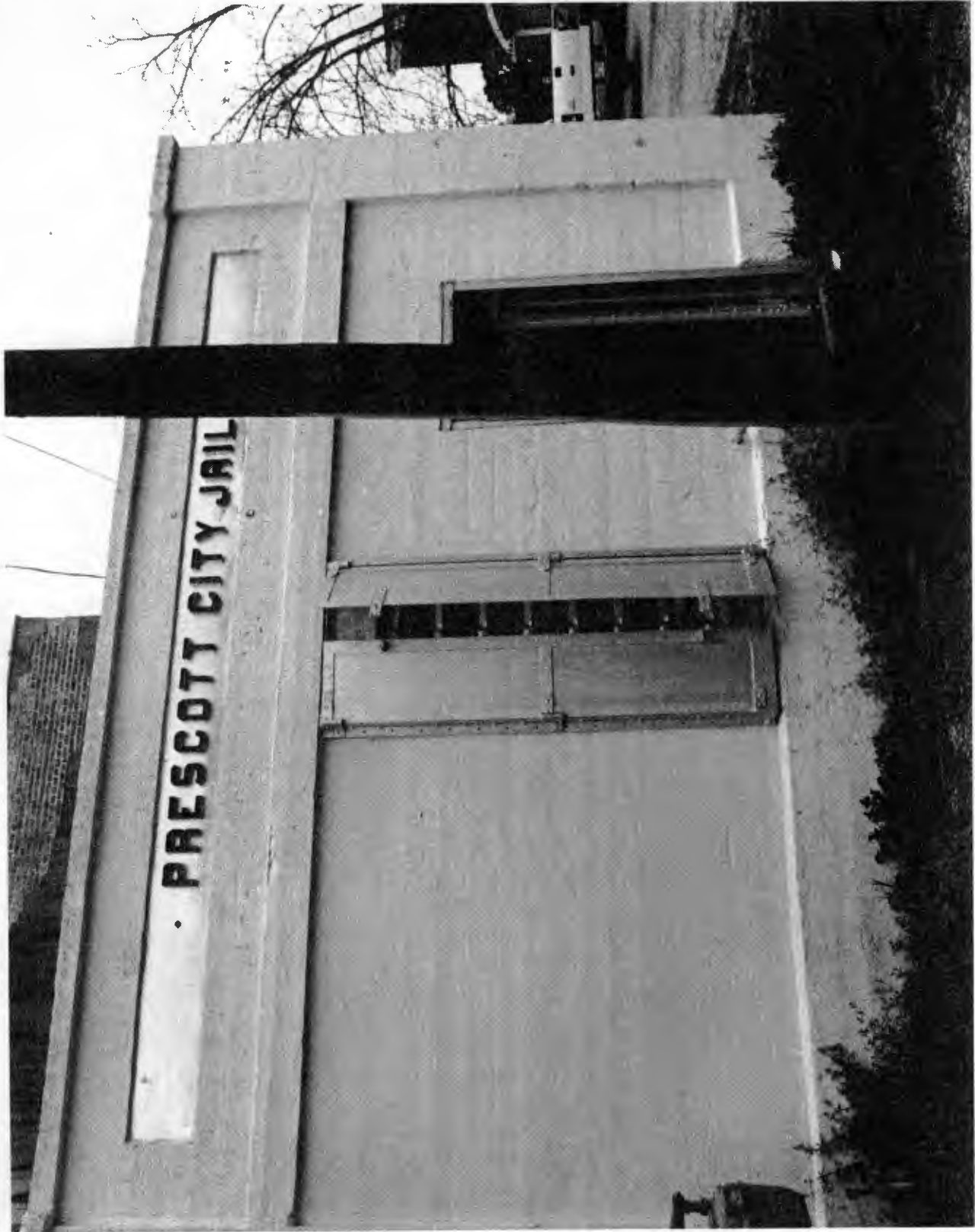


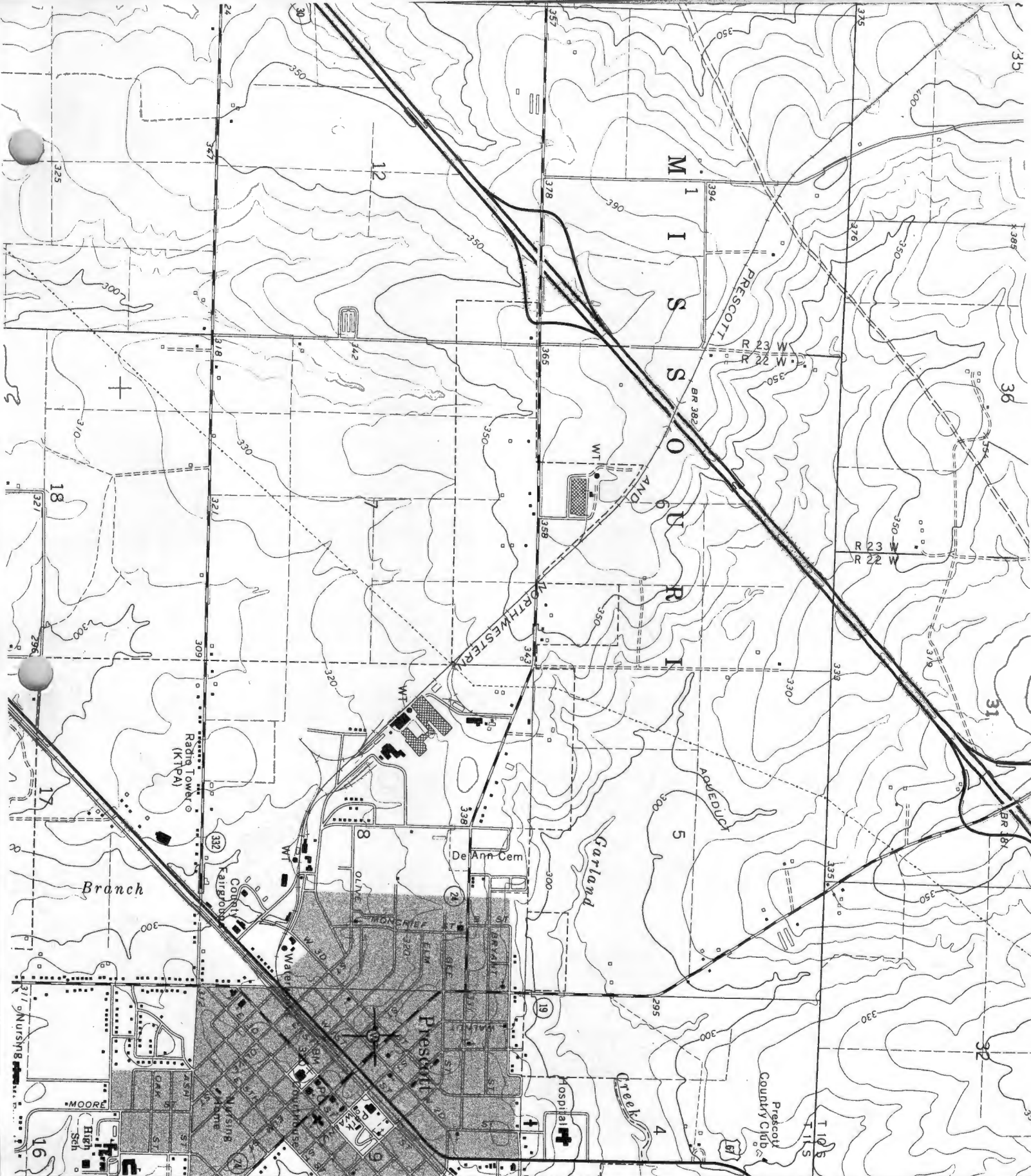












3739
47'30"

BLUFF CITY 19 MI.
CAMDEN 41 MI.

PRESCOTT CITY JAIL
PRESCOTT, NEVADA
COUNTY, AR
UTM:
15W46527/374033

(PRESCOTT EAST)
7351 IV SE

3742
GURDON 16 MI.
ARKADELPHIA 32 MI.

3743