

53-03-P079- NR 7-6-76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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
Perry County Courthouse
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Main and Pine Streets
CITY, TOWN
Perryville
STATE
Arkansas
VICINITY OF
Third
COUNTY
Perry
CODE
05
105
NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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 type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" 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"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Perry County (Melvin Brand, County Judge)
STREET & NUMBER
Perry County Courthouse
CITY, TOWN
Perryville
VICINITY OF
STATE
Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Clerk's Office
STREET & NUMBER
Perry County Courthouse
CITY, TOWN
Perryville
STATE
Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN
STATE
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

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

Constructed in 1888, the Perry County Courthouse is a two-storey brick building with one-storey wings projecting from the east and west elevations. The two wings, added about 1958, have flat roofs while the original structure has a truncated hip roof. In 1969 the original steel shingles on the hip roof were covered with composition shingles.

According to the county judge, the courthouse is built of bricks hand-made from Perry County clay. The building retained its original red-brick color until it was completely covered with white paint in 1962. About the same time green wooden shutters were added to all of the windows.

The building is of a very simple style, with the truncated hip roof being the most striking architectural feature. The frieze around the two-storey section is very plain, as are the double-hung, four-light windows set in deep rectangular wood frames.

On both the north and south elevations the main entries are recessed in a small porch-like alcove. Surrounding the entries and projecting slightly from the flat wall surfaces are squared pilasters supporting the entablature. The upper portion of both entry doors is of rectangular glass set in a three-light by five-light pattern.

Though the north elevation is symmetrical with five bays, the south elevation has four bays. Three of the south bays have single windows, but the second bay from the west has paired windows on both stories. No information has yet been uncovered on this particular feature of the structure.

Though located on the third courthouse site, the present structure rests on its own original site. The interior has been remodeled to accommodate modern office needs, but the core of the structure has not been basically altered. The building remains in fairly good condition and is still used to house the Perry County government.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
___ HISTORIC	___ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___ COMMUNITY PLANNING	___ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___ RELIGION
___ 1800-1899	___ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___ CONSERVATION	___ LAW	___ SCIENCE
___ 1500-1599	___ AGRICULTURE	___ ECONOMICS	___ LITERATURE	___ SCULPTURE
___ 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	___ EDUCATION	___ MILITARY	___ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
___ 1700-1799	___ ART	___ ENGINEERING	___ MUSIC	___ THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	___ COMMERCE	___ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___ PHILOSOPHY	___ TRANSPORTATION
___ 1900-	___ COMMUNICATIONS	___ INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		___ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1888

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The largest number of architecturally significant public buildings in Arkansas are the county courthouses. As the center of local politics, the courthouse is often the largest and most costly building in the county. The Perry County Courthouse in Perryville is the most important public historic structure in the county.

Perry County, located in central Arkansas, was created by the state legislature on December 14, 1840. The new county was formed from the portion of Conway County which lay south of the Arkansas River, and was named for an American naval hero in the War of 1812, Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry.

The first county seat was in the log home of John L. Houston. In 1841 Houston and John Greathouse agreed to donate land on which to build a courthouse in the newly founded town of Perryville. The county seat was established in Perryville in 1841, and a log building was constructed to house court offices. Following a fire in 1850, a second log courthouse was constructed on the same site.

In 1872 a large frame building replaced the log courthouse. Located about one-half mile distant from the log courthouse, this building was situated on the third and final courthouse site. Successive fires plagued the county courthouse, but each replacement was located on the 1872 site.

Since its construction in 1888 the present Perry County Courthouse has been enlarged with additions, but has not been greatly altered. The two-storey brick structure is of a simple rectangular floor plan and features a truncated hip roof. The architectural style is extremely simple with an undecorated cornice, plain windows set in wood frames and an entablature over the two main entries. The building rests on the Perry County court square.

Despite its central Arkansas location and proximity to the state's most populous county (Pulaski), Perry County has always been among the least populated of Arkansas' seventy-five counties. Very few historic or architecturally significant structures remain in the area, thus increasing the importance of the courthouse.

Among the very small number of historic structures still standing in Perry County, the courthouse is decidedly the most significant. The building dominates the Perryville business district, and is the most important historic man-made landmark in Perry County.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brand, Melvin. Interview at Perry County Courthouse, Perryville, Arkansas, February 2, 1976.

A Survey of Arkansas Courthouses. Compiled by the National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of Arkansas. Mrs. W. G. McDonald, Chairman, Historical Activities Committee. Arkansas Room, Little Rock Public Library.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 5	5 1 8 0 1 6 0	3 8 7 3 4 4 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

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

Dianna Kirk, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

3-9-76

STREET & NUMBER

300 West Markham

TELEPHONE

501-371-1639

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

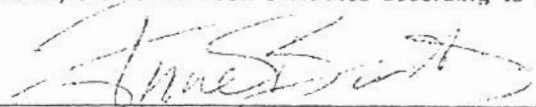
NATIONAL

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 3-9-76

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE one

Works Progress Administration. Perry County, c. 1940. Place file, Archives,
Arkansas History Commission.



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

NAME

HISTORIC
AND/OR COMMON
Perry County Courthouse

LOCATION

CITY, TOWN
Perryville
VICINITY OF
COUNTY
Perry
STATE
Arkansas

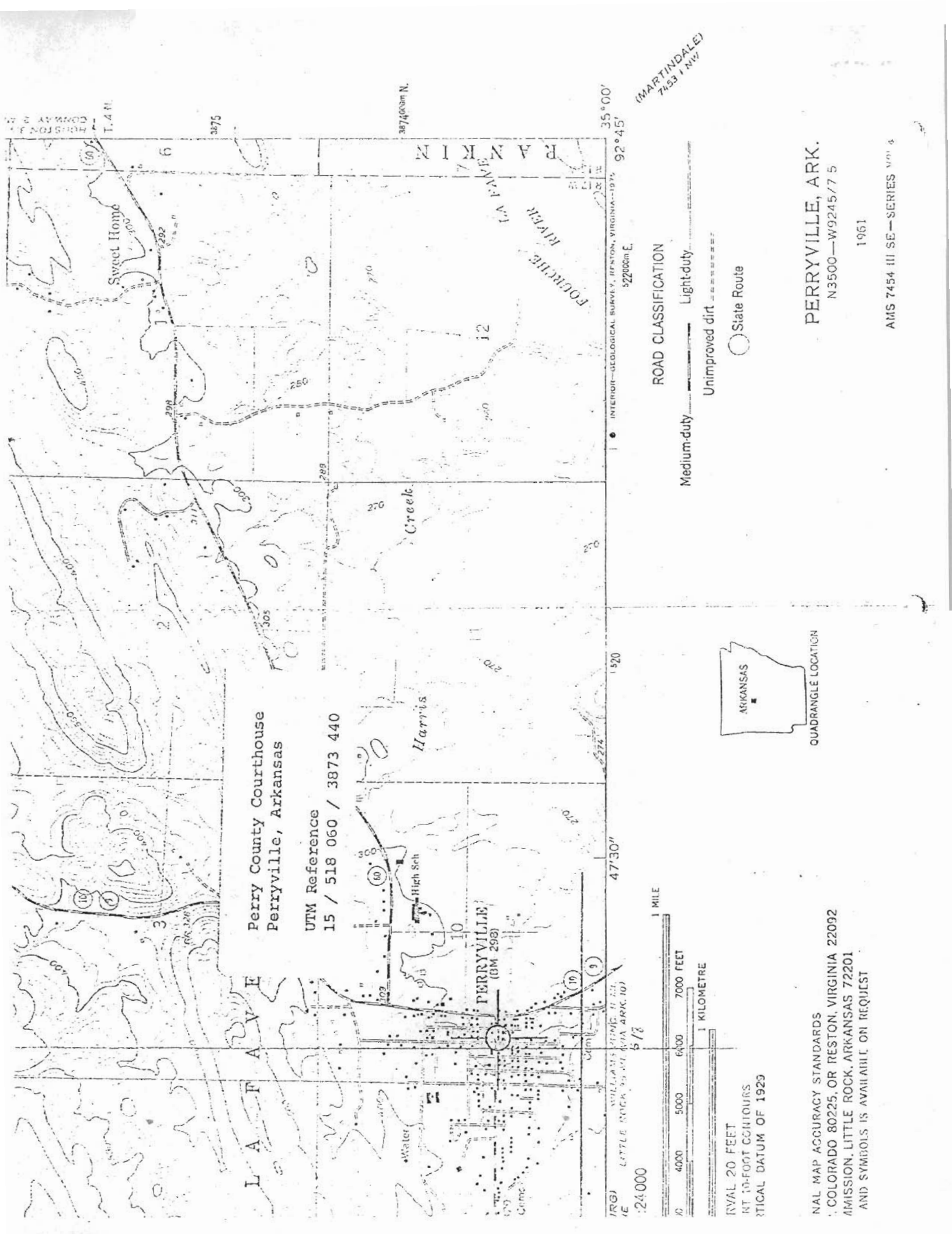
PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT
Dianna Kirk
DATE OF PHOTO
February, 1976
NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET
South elevation, viewed from the southeast

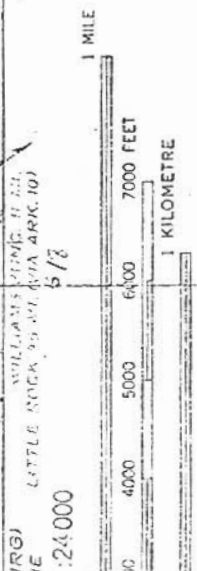
PHOTO NO.
1



Perry County Courthouse
Perryville, Arkansas

UTM Reference
15 / 518 060 / 3873 440

PERRYVILLE
(BM 298)



RYAL 20 FEET
NT 10-FOOT CONTOURS
TICAL DATUM OF 1929

NAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
MISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201
AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Medium-duty ————
- Light-duty - - - - -
- Unimproved dirt - - - - -
- State Route

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1972
35° 00' 92° 45' 322000m E

(MARTINDALE)
7453 NW

PERRYVILLE, ARK.
N3500—W9245/7 5

1961

AMS 7454 III SE—SERIES V.01.4

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

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TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Perry County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Perryville

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Perry

STATE

Arkansas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE U. S. G. S., Perryville Quadrangle

SCALE 1:24,000

DATE 1961

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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

