

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NR
11/20/00

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 Russellville Public Library
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 114 East Third Street not for publication
city or town Russellville vicinity
state AR code AR county Pope code 115 zip code 72801

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 Matthews 9/28/00
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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

Russellville Public Library

Name of Property

Pope, 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)

EDUCATION/Library

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

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

(See Continuation Sheet)

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.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

A (OTHER)—Association with Works Progress Administration

C—ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1937-1950

Significant Dates

1937

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Nelson, O.S., local contractor

Reed, Leon, construction supervisor

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

(See Continuation Sheet)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

(See Continuation Sheet)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Criteria for previous documentation on file (NPS).

Primary location of additional data:

- Criteria for primary location of additional data.

Name of repository:

recorded by Historic American Engineering

Record # _____

Russellville Public Library

Name of Property

Pope County, Arkansas

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>487880</u>	<u>3903410</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
					<input type="checkbox"/>	See continuation sheet	

Verbal Boundary Description

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

A part of Lot Five (5), in block Sixty-one (61), of J.L. Shinn's Addition to the Town (now City) of Russellville, Arkansas, more particularly described as beginning at the northeast corner of said Lot Five (5), Block Sixty-one (61), and running south Fifty (50) feet; thence West Thirty (30) feet; thence North Fifty (50) feet; thence east Thirty (30) feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

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

The boundary includes all land historically associated with the library.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Laura L. Schull, Heritage Room Assistant

organization Pope County Library System date June 23, 2000

street & number 116 East Third Street telephone (501) 968-4368

city or town Russellville state Arkansas zip code 72801

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 Pope County Library System

street & number 116 E. Third St. telephone 501-968-4368

city or town Russellville state AR zip code 72801

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

Built in late 1936 and early 1937, the old Russellville Public Library is a one-story frame construction building with brick veneer; it is roofed with asphalt shingles over the original wooden shingles. The Colonial Revival-style structure, located at 114 East Third Street, was the City of Russellville's sole public library facility for 39 years. The library has been used for storage since 1976. There are currently plans to restore the building for use as a community meeting room and for community library programs.

ELABORATION

Built in late 1936 and early 1937 in the 100 block of East Third Street, the old Russellville Public Library is a one-story Colonial Revival-style building. The building stands on a continuous brick foundation on a 30X 50foot lot. The building served as the city's sole public library facility until April 1976 when a new library building opened next door at 116 East Third Street. O.S. Nelson, a local contractor, drew up plans for the Old Russellville Public Library. Leon Reed was the construction supervisor. Exterior dimensions of the building are 26 feet 4 ½ inches by 47 feet 2 inches (1,244 square feet). It is a Works Progress Administration funded building of frame construction with brick veneer. It is roofed with wooden shingles, with at least two layers of asphalt shingles that have been installed over the original wood shingles.

North/Front Elevation

The front or north elevation features a typical Colonial Revival entryway with supporting pilasters. Access to the building is gained through a six-paneled wooden door. The doorway is crowned by a single-pane transom light, which is covered by a non-historic metal awning. The original wooden door has a book return drop slot above the bottom two panels of the door. The doorway is accented on each side by historic lamp fixtures and also a bronze WPA plaque with the date 1936 on the western side of the door. There has been an addition of a metal screen door (date unknown) in front of the original wooden one. Near the apex of the roof there is a concrete inset that reads "RUSSELLVILLE/ PUBLIC/ LIBRARY". The concrete steps are flanked by a wrought iron railing, which leads up to the doorway. On each side of the entrance there are two double hung wooden windows on the front elevation. Each window has a nine over nine- pane configuration.

West/ Side Elevation

The west elevation features five original twelve over twelve-pane windows. It also features the base of the original red brick chimney, however the top part is no longer remaining and the date of its removal is undocumented.

South/Rear Elevation

The windows on the south elevation differs from those on the west and east elevations. The south elevation is fenestrated with three, six over six light windows.

East/Side Elevation

The east elevation faces the new library and is very similar to the west elevation. There are five, twelve over twelve light windows located on this side. This elevation and all others maintain original windows.

Interior

The interior of the building consists of one large room with two smaller rooms – a restroom and a reading/work area both located at the rear. Located to the side of the entrance there are two plaques. One plaque lists the library's founding members and the other plaque is dedicated to Sue Catherine Deaton whose family donated the land for the building in her honor. The interior walls display their original wall material and are covered with plaster. The trim around the ceiling and floor base is constructed of wood and is in excellent condition. The floor finish is vinyl tile laid directly on the 1x12-inch floor sheathing. The ceiling tile is fiber composition fastened directly to the underside to the roof joists.

The sink and stool in the restroom are both vintage with steel piping above the floor. The buildings lighting is provided by historic wall- mounted adjustable reading lamps. There are also florescent pendant-type office light fixtures that hang from the ceiling that were added at a later date. The original electrical wiring was installed according to the accepted standards of 1936 and does not meet the building code requirements of today.

The lower chimney support is not very deep, leading to the assumption that the chimney was used as a vent for a coal stove. The stove was replaced by a heating unit (date unknown), that is located in the building crawl- space with air delivery through a network of floor vents.

Integrity

Although there have been some minor alterations to the building, the basic plan of the library's exterior and interior remains the same as when the building was completed in 1937. The exterior of the building displays its integrity with the excellent condition of the brick and also the original door and windows. The condition of the brick veneer is generally very good. The window ledges are in good condition showing very little chipping of the mortar or brick. Of the foundation vents, five are original units, the remaining spaces are covered with sheet metal but new louvers have been installed in the two front vent spaces. The original construction included a chimney, which was removed (date unknown). There has also been an addition of a non-historic awning over the entryway. Other than these few alterations the exterior of the building still stands in its original form. The interior is also very intact with the exception of the stove being removed and the addition of florescent lighting. This building stands not only as a wonderful example of Colonial Revival architecture, but also an excellent example of a WPA building and the American public's desire for knowledge.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

SUMMARY

The old Russellville Public Library building at 114 East Third Street is being nominated with local significance under **Criterion A** for its association with the Works Progress Administration and under **Criterion C** for its Colonial Revival Architecture.

ELABORATION

P.C. Holledger built the first house in the area around present day Russellville, which at that time was called Prairie. The town was named Russellville after Dr. Thomas Russell, an English doctor who purchased the home in 1835. By 1842 the village had grown and been named for Dr. Russell. Russellville, incorporated in 1870, and became the county seat of Pope County in 1887. Russellville begin its modern day improvements around 1908 with the building of concrete sidewalks, paved streets and street lamps. At that time there were three weekly papers, coal mining companies, a small electric light plant and the railroad. By 1920 Russellville was a thriving town with a population above five thousand. The city was home to the largest horse and mule market in the state; Russellville also had three banks, a modern creamery, a large foundry and iron works, roller flour mill, a modern hospital, city band and handsome well-kept homes. Russellville was considered a metropolitan area of the state. However, there was no public library building.

From July 1885 to 1924, the town's public library consisted of a collection of books ranging in number from less than 100 to more than 500. The books were housed in private homes and unused space in downtown business buildings. The library effort begin in 1885 when the Excelsior Club, a group of civic minded young men, began a fund-raising drive to raise money for a small collection of books. The books were checked out for a fee of 5 cents a week and the money raised was used to purchase additional books. In 1889 Professor A.E. Lee, superintendent of Russellville schools, purchased books for the high school and combined these with the Excelsior Club collection.

After Lee's tenure had expired the books were put into private homes and could be checked out by anybody. A Public Library Association was organized in May 1899 to oversee thew collection of books. The collection was moved to a room above a downtown business and Luther Turnbow became the first librarian. The library opened the first week of June 1899. In 1904 the collection was moved to Wiggs Drug Store.

By March of 1905 the San Souci Club, a group of local women, had taken over the library. The club furnished a librarian who was on duty every Tuesday from 3-5 P.M. This arrangement lasted until December of that year when the books were moved to the home of James A. Miller. Shortly later the collection, now more than 600 books, was moved to the home of Library Association President Mrs. W.L. Oates.

In 1906 efforts were made to obtain a Carnegie Library. This plan failed when the amount of money needed to buy land for the building could not be raised. The books continued to be moved from place to place until the start of World War I.

Russellville had no public Library collection during the World War I years, 1917-1919, when the Russellville Public Library collection was added to books collected in the county that were all sent to Camp Pike (Pulaski County) for the benefit of the soldiers. The books were returned after the war with the addition of other books that had been donated to the Camp Pike collection. Upon their return the books were stored for several months before finally being placed in a room at the Central Presbyterian Church.

In 1923 Reverend Robert Hodgson started a drive for a public library building. On February 8, 1924 a small building (no longer in existence) on the Central Presbyterian Church property at West Main Street and North Denver Avenue began use as a public library building. The library was open Monday-Saturday and staffed with volunteers.

By 1936 public demand for a larger, more permanent facility had grown. Local citizens turned to the help of the Works Progress Administration. The Works Progress Administration furnished \$6,000 of the construction costs. Community fund-raising events raised an additional \$2,151 for construction and furnished the building.

Relatives of a former Russellville mayor, Jeremiah Munday, carried out his spirit of public service and donated the 30x50-foot lot where the library building was constructed. The children of Mrs. Sue Munday Deaton, the former mayor's sister, donated the land for the library in her honor. The building was designed by O.S. Nelson a local contractor. Another local, Leon Reed acted as construction supervisor. The building was started in 1936 and was completed in October 1937.

Mrs. M.C. Hickman was the first paid librarian. She retired in 1958 and was replaced by Mrs. Wetzell, who was the first trained librarian at the library. Each reader was charged \$1 a year for reading privileges until December 1957 when Pope County became part of the Arkansas River Valley Regional Library System. In 1985 the library pulled out of the regional system to start an independent county system.

The building was used as a library until 1976 when demand outgrew the small building and a new library was built next door at 116 East Third Street. Since that time the old Russellville Public Library has been used as storage for the new one.

Russellville has grown and prospered in the 166 years since that first house was built. The city is today a major industrial, business, transportation, and educational hub with a population of about 30,000 people. Arkansas Tech University is located in Russellville and serves as a major institution of the city.

Significance

The Old Russellville Public Library building is being nominated with local significance under both **Criterion A** for its association with the Works Progress Administration and **Criterion C** as a Colonial-Revival style public building.

Russellville Public Library

Name of Property

Pope County

County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brown, Mattie, "History of Public Libraries in Russellville, Pope County, Arkansas." Pope County Historical Association Quarterly, Volume 5, Number 4 (1971): Pages 62-64

Pope County Historical association of Russellville, Arkansas, "History of Pope County, Arkansas" Volume 1, Published 1979, Hunter Publishing Co., Winston Salem, North Carolina

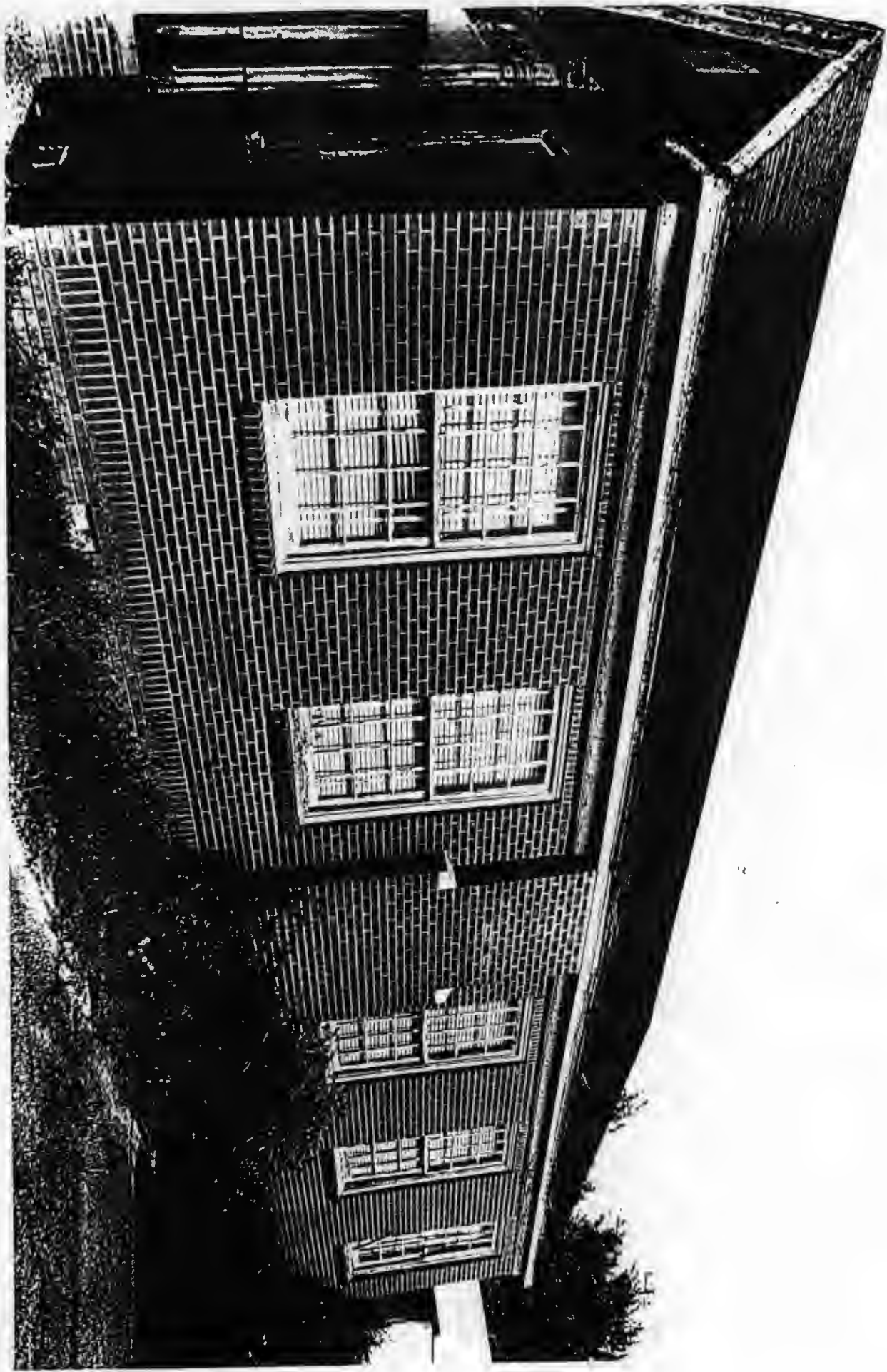
"Russellville Libraries,' Russellville Centennial 1870-1970, from book "Arrows to Atoms," Russellville Public Library, Russellville, Arkansas.



LIBRARY
PARKING
ONLY

LIBRARY
PARKING
ONLY















17°30"
 3905
 T. 7 N.
 3904
 3903
 3902
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 35°15'
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*Russellville
 Public Library
 Rose Co., AR*
 UTM
 15/487800/
 3903410

10' 485

486000m.E.

• INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1993
 DARDANELLE 3 MI.
 OLA (ARK. 10) 19 MI.

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road
- Interstate Route
- U. S. Route
- State Route



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

RUSSELLVILLE WEST, ARK.
 35093-C2-TF-024

1993

DMA 7354 I SW—SERIES V884

*(HOLLA BEND)
 7354 II NE*