

NRListed 5-16-02

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Old Scott County Jail

other names/site number Scott County Library

2. Location

street & number 125 West 2nd Street

not for publication

city or town Waldron

vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Scott code 127 zip code 72958

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.)

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:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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:)

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	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
10	0	objects
11	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: correctional facility

EDUCATION: library

SOCIAL: meeting hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: civic

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Vernacular Stone Jail

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Stone

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

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

LAW

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1908-1951

Significant Dates

1908

Circa 1937

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

J. L. McCartney

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Old Scott County Jail
Name of Property

Scott County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Age of Property Less than one acre.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>400278</u>	<u>3862192</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>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)
Block 6, Lot 4 of the Featherstone Addition to the Town of Waldron.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all land historically associated with the jail.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ms. Betty Leeper and Zac Cothren

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 10/29/01

street & number 1500 Tower Building 323 Center St. telephone 501-324-9880

city or town Little Rock state Arkansas 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 Scott County, Arkansas

street & number 100 West First Street telephone 501-637-2155

city or town Waldron state Arkansas zip code 72958

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.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Summary

Located on the south side of West Second Street in Waldron, Arkansas, the Old Scott County Jail is a two-story block and stone structure. The building, constructed in 1908, is one of two buildings built by Mr. J.L. McCartney, the other, which was the courthouse, was destroyed by fire on March 22, 1933. The building rests on a continuous stone foundation and is topped with a flat roof. The exterior is distinguished by the stone dental work near the roofline. The building was originally constructed as a jail, but was remodeled in the late 1930s by the Works Progress Administration to serve as the town library. Only one barred window remains from the period when the building served as a jail.

Elaboration

The Old Scott County Jail is a two-story block and stone structure. The roof covers a fundamentally square floor plan and the building rests upon a continuous stone foundation. The building's native stone was covered in concrete, painted, and the single door entrance was altered to include sidelights. Although the exact date of these changes is not known, from historic photographs we know they were in place as early as 1939. The bars were removed from the windows and shutters were added to the building to give it a more appealing appearance for its new use as a library. The changes occurred sometime in the late 1930s using labor from the W.P.A. The shutters have since been removed. Ten stone columns are located around the building's lot on three sides. They were constructed at the same time the building was and are contributing resources.

North Elevation

The building fronts north and overlooks second street from it's elevated vantage on top of a small rise in the land. Access to the building is gained through a single entryway that is flanked by sidelights. The present entryway configuration is a result of work completed by the W.P.A. When the library occupied the building, an awning was installed above the door. The awning has been removed, but iron support rods and the hooks that held the supporting chains for the awning are still embedded above the doorway. Moving west the building is fenestrated by a three-over-three double-hung window. Fenestration on the second story consists of two double-hung windows.

West Elevation

The west side of the building is fenestrated by a single double-hung window on the first story. The only other window on the elevation is a double-hung window centrally located on the second story.

South Elevation

The back of the building faces south and is fenestrated by a ribbon of three six-over-six double-hung windows. Moving down the building, a single double-hung window is located near the southeast corner of the building. The second story windows include a ribbon of three double-hung windows followed by a single double-hung window.

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East Elevation

The east elevation is identical to the west elevation. It is fenestrated by a six-over-six window on both the first and second story.

Interior

When the jail was originally built, the interior looked much like the exterior with walls and floors made up of exposed native stone. When the jail was remodeled by the W.P.A. the interior was dramatically altered. A stone staircase was replaced with a wooden one, all interior cell bars were removed, all but one set of window bars was removed, and the stone walls and floor were covered with concrete. The Boy Scouts of America performed the second remodel of the building's interior during the 1950s and 1960s when the building served as their meeting place. The Boy Scouts added two brick fireplaces and a restroom. The interior of the upstairs remains very much the same as when the building was constructed.

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Summary

Located at 125 West Second Street in Waldron, Arkansas, the Old Scott County Jail is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its association with the establishment of law enforcement and a public library system in Scott County. It is also being nominated under **Criterion C** as an excellent example of a stone constructed public building with 1930s alterations. The building has served citizens of Scott County, Arkansas, in a variety of ways since it was constructed. It was built as a jail, but was transformed into a library by the Works Progress Administration in the late 1930s. After the library vacated the building it was used as a probation office as well as a meeting place for both the Boy Scouts of America and the Girl Scouts. The Scott County Historical and Genealogical Society has occupied the building since 1987.

Elaboration

The city of Waldron was named for John P. Waldron. Mr. Waldron was a law student and also a trained land surveyor. He surveyed a parcel of land for William G. Featherston in 1859 that now is part of the present town of Waldron. This addition was called the Featherston addition. Mr. Waldron moved on, but a town would be formed where the survey had been conducted.

The Old Lanesport Road ran north and south through Waldron and by 1860 the town was beginning to prosper. There were four dry good stores, a post office, and a blacksmith shop. There was government in the area with its activities held in a log courthouse. This courthouse was later burned in 1862.

At the outbreak of the Civil War the town of Waldron accepted its fate and the Confederacy raised troops from the area. No major battles occurred in Waldron but there were battles both north and south of its location. Instead of large warring armies, the most serious concern for the citizens of Waldron was dealing with Bushwhackers. Troops were stationed at Waldron to help guard against the outlaws, but the Bushwhackers caused more havoc than the war itself.

The 1870s were turbulent times for Scott County. The militia was still utilized in the 1870s to keep the peace in the City of Waldron. Like most other parts of the south, recovery after the war was very slow. Even with progress slowed in the area, schools were formed and the town began to grow again. The first newspaper in the county, *The Reformer*, was published in 1873. Another newspaper began publication in 1878 under the name of "*The News*". A new courthouse was built to replace the original one that had burned during the war, and like its predecessor, it was constructed of logs. A drug store was added to the city's list of businesses in about 1874.

The courthouse was again destroyed by fire in 1882 and the county would be without a courthouse for sixteen years. However, during the 1880s Waldron flourished and the population increased. Schools were

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formed throughout the county and the first high school opened around 1886. Waldron also had a circulating library that contained a collection of 60 books in 1889. Lodges also were formed including the I.O.O.F., F. & A.M., G.A.R. and the Odd Fellows. Two more newspapers were also started.

The Bank of Waldron opened for business on June 15, 1901. Around this same time a railroad was being built from Heavener, Oklahoma, to Waldron. Upon completion of the railroad the town began to flourish. Many of Waldron's citizens were employed at the coal mine near the town of Coaldale. In 1905 a new two story high school was built and construction began on a new court house. The courthouse was built by a Mr. Creech and J.L. McCartney. The new courthouse was a two-story square block structure topped with a cupola. In 1907 plans were made to construct a new jail. The older jail was a wooden structure and according to Judge Bates in "inhabitable condition". J. L. McCartney was chosen to build the new jail. The new stone jail was completed in 1908. The same year the county completed construction of a "poor farm" located southwest of the town.

Several fires plagued Waldron. One entire block of Main Street burned in October 1909. In 1910 another fire in Waldron burned even more buildings. The town recovered from the fires. A creamery, ice plant, and other buildings were constructed where earlier buildings had been lost in the fires.

On March 22, 1933, fire struck again destroying the courthouse. A new courthouse was built in part with W.P.A. labor and was opened Feb 21, 1935. The third floor of the new courthouse was designed to serve as the county jail. Upon completion of the courthouse the old jail was vacated.

With the former jail left empty, the county once again used W.P.A. labor to renovate the old jail to serve as a public library. The library occupied the building by 1938 and served the county until 1947. The exact date the library actually moved out has not been determined.

After the library vacated the building, the Boy Scouts of America and the Girl Scouts occupied it. The actual date that they moved in is not known, but they were in the building as early as 1949 and continued to use the building until the mid 1960s. During this time period, the Boy Scouts added two brick fireplaces, painted both the interior and exterior, replaced broken glass, and maintained the grounds. Many young men and women passed through this building on their way to adult hood, one of the most notable is Federal Judge Billy Ray Wilson currently of Little Rock.

The building then served as the Scott County Department of Juvenile Services. During this time, many offices came and went with few being recorded. It is unclear who the actual occupants were, and the times that they occupied the building. No occupants were recorded in county records.

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The Scott County Historical and Genealogical Society has occupied this space since 1987, when they moved into the second story as the first story was already occupied. The Scott County Historical and Genealogical Society now fully occupies this historic building. During the time that the Historical Society has occupied this building, no changes have been made.

Statement of Significance

The Old Scott County Jail is the only block and stone jail that is still in existence in Scott County, Arkansas. The building was built in 1908 and has continuously served the county in one form or another throughout its ninety-three year existence. It is being nominated under **Criterion A** with **local significance** for its role in law enforcement in Scott County and also for its association with the Works Progress Administration as the only W.P.A. associated library in the county. The jail is also being nominated under **Criterion C** as the best and only example of a stone constructed correctional facility in Scott County, Arkansas.

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Bibliography

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Waldron News, If Jails Could Talk, Jan 1960

Scott County in Retrospect, Charles Goodner ©1976 © 1982

Advanced Reporter Donated by: Charles Goodner 1908

Interviews:

Jeff Brasher September 2001

Gary Blythe August 2001

Pat Ray Biggs August 2001

Wendell York August 2001

Kenneth Bynum August 2001