

64-2-1085-72

NR 10-21-76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Searcy County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Marshall

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

STATE

Arkansas

VICINITY OF

CODE

05

COUNTY

Searcy

CODE

129

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Searcy County (John A. "Andy" Griffith, County Judge)

STREET & NUMBER

Searcy County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Marshall

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Circuit Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Searcy County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Marshall

STATE

Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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

The Searcy County Courthouse in Marshall, Arkansas, was constructed in 1889. It is a two-storey-and-basement structure of native stone. Native stone construction was found primarily in public buildings and wealthy residences in the county at the time of construction of the courthouse. The building features a hipped roof of pressed metal with fairly wide overhang. Triangular dormers project from the center of the roof on each elevation. These dormers contain air vents in each gable end. All windows feature cast-stone lintels and lugsills and are multi-lite.

The building is rectangular in plan and rests upon a foundation of cast stone. It is situated on a 90'x90' tract of land in the center of Marshall's business district.

The facade (east elevation) is marked by a one-storey porch with a gable roof. The porch is supported by two square cast stone posts. The gable end of the portico is divided into four distinct triangular areas. The double-entry doors are paneled and feature a single pane of glass in the upper half. Over the doors is rectangular-shaped transom with four lites. On the first-storey level windows flank either side of the entry. Three symmetrically placed windows are located on the second-storey level.

The south elevation features three windows on both the first and second storey levels. Rectangular multi-lite windows are spaced irregularly at the basement level around the building. The west elevation is identical to the facade with the exception of the absence of a portico over the double-entry doors.

The north elevation contains the only addition to the building since its original construction in 1889. A two-storey, flat-roofed projection of cast stone was added in the early 1950's. This rectangular-shaped addition contains four windows around the second-storey level and two small windows on the first-storey level of the east and west elevations of the projection. This addition contains vaults in which county records are kept.

A central hall, ten feet in width, runs from the east entrance to the west entrance. Much of the interior retains a four-foot high wooden wainscoting, with the upper portions of the walls being of plaster. Woodwork is of oak and pine. Ceilings in the courthouse are twelve feet high. As with any courthouse of its age, the Searcy County Courthouse has been somewhat altered in the interior for changing office needs.

In good condition, the Searcy County Courthouse rests on its original site. Constructed in 1889, it is one of the oldest courthouses in the state, a fact which on its own makes the Searcy County Courthouse an historically significant building

SIGNIFICANCE

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1889

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The largest number of architecturally significant public buildings in Arkansas are the courthouses scattered over the state's seventy-five counties. A structural symbol of American government, the county courthouse serves as the center of local political activity. Often the largest and most costly building in the county, the courthouse is almost always a source of pride to the citizens who financed and make use of its facilities.

Searcy County was created in 1836 and named in honor of Richard Searcy, an attorney and secretary of the first and second Arkansas Territorial Council. The first county seat was established in 1838 at Lebanon, about six miles west of Marshall. Lebanon remained the county seat until 1855. County business was conducted in a private home until the first courthouse was built in 1842. The Lebanon Courthouse was a log structure and contained a courtroom, offices of the county officials and the jail.

In 1856 the county seat was moved to Burrowsville, named for N. D. Burrows who is believed to have deeded eleven acres for the courthouse site. County business was conducted in a store in Burrowsville until it burned in 1857. In 1858 a courthouse building was constructed.

In 1867 the Arkansas General Assembly changed the name of the county seat to Marshall in honor of John Marshall, one of the men who designated the area as the location of the new county seat in 1856. Marshall was incorporated in 1884. Fire destroyed the courthouse in 1886. The present courthouse was built in 1889.

Searcy County is mountainous and broken but also has a great deal of farming land. Apples and peaches are a standard crop, and stock raising is an important enterprise of the county. Black marble is one of the most important products of the county, as Searcy County is one of the few areas in North America with this resource.

The Searcy County Courthouse is a two-storey structure of native stone construction. The 1889 building features a hipped roof of pressed metal. Triangular dormers project from the center of the roof on each elevation. All windows feature cast-stone lintels and lugsills. The building is rectangular in plan and rests upon a foundation of cast stone. It is situated on a 90'x90' tract of land in the center of Marshall's business district.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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As one of the oldest courthouses in the State, Searcy County Courthouse is a significant historical structure. Resting on its original site, the Searcy County Courthouse has been in continuous use since its construction in 1889.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

A Survey of Arkansas Courthouses. Compiled by the National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of Arkansas. Mrs. W. G. McDonald, Chairperson, Historical Activities Committee. Arkansas Room, Little Rock Public Library. Herndon, Dallas T. Centennial History of Arkansas. Chicago: Clarke Publishing Company, 1922.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	53,3	2,2,0	3,9	7,3	7,8,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING				NORTHING
C					D					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Sandra Taylor, 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

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

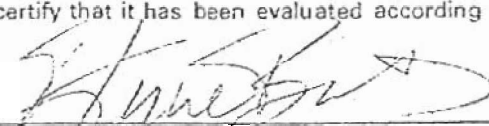
NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE 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

No 10-307a
10-751

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McInturff, Orville J. Searcy County, My Dear; A History of Searcy County, Arkansas.
Marshall, Arkansas: The Marshall Mountain Wave, 1963.
Works Project Administration. Searcy County, c. 1940, Archives, Arkansas History
Commission.

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Due to the age of the Searcy County Courthouse and loss of records concerning construction, the builder of the structure is not known.

