24-4-4150-33 14 STED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

IATIONAL 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

NAME

1.300 (Rev. 10-74)

HISTORIC Franklin County Courthouse, Southern District

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

	Highway 22		NOT FOR PUBLICATIO	N
CITY, TOWN	-		CUNGRESSIONALDIS	TRICT
	Charleston	VICINITY OF	Third	
STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE 04.7
	Arkansas	05	Franklin .	. 047

CLASSIFICATION

	CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENTUSE	
	DISTRICT	X_PUBUC	.XOCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM	÷
	XBUILDING(S)	-PRIVATE		COMMERCIAL	PARK	4
	STRUCTURE	ВОТН	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE	
1	SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS	-
000	OBJECT	IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED		-SCIENTIFIC	
		BEING CONSIDERED	XYES: UNRESTRICTED	_INDUSTRIAL	_TRANSPORTATION	
			NO	MILITARY	OTHER:	

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

		Franklin	County	(Nick Gil	singer, Co	ounty Judg	je)		
	STREET & NUM	958		· · · · ·					
		Franklin	County	Courthous	se in the second se				
	CITY, TOWN							STATE	
		Charlest	on ·		VICINITY OF			Arkansas	
	LOCAT	ION OF	LEGAI	. DESCR	IPTION				
	COURTHOUSE.								
	REGISTRY OF D	DEEDS, ETC.	Clerk's	Office					
	STREET & NUM	BER							
			Frankli	n County	Courthous	e			
	CITY, TOWN							STATE	
			Charles	ton				Arkansas	
C	REPRE	5ENTAT	TONIN	V EXIST	ING SUP	RVEYS			
	TITLE								
	DATE					FEDERALS	STATE COU		
	DEPOSITORY P								
	SURVEY RECO								
	CITY, TOWN							STATE	



• C	ONDITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK O	NE
EXCELLENT X_GOOD FAIR	DETERIORATED RUINS UNEXPOSED	UNALTERED	XORIGINAL : MOVED	DATE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Franklin County Courthouse at Charleston was designed by architect Frank W. Gibb of Little Rock. Constructed in 1923, this two-andone-half storey brick building is of simple lines with little ornamentation.

- The courthouse has a basic rectangular form and rests on a full basement. Except for the cast stone water table, the red brick walls are continuous from the ground level to the roofline. Brick pilasters, each with a cast stone "T-shape" pattern at the top, divide the wall surface into a series of bays, five on the north and south elevations and three on the east and west elevations. A metal cornice surrounds the building just below the actual roofline.
- All windows are paired and set in wooden frames with cast stone lugsills. The upper sash of each window has nine lights, while each lower sash has a single large light. Basement windows are also doublehung but have six lights per sash. Horizontal panels of cast stone are set between each pair of first-and second-storey windows.

The main entry, recessed in the center bay of the north elevation, is marked by brick pilasters with cast stone heads supporting a flat arch with keystone. Secondary entries are flush with the wall surface on the east and west elevations. The double doors on the west have a geometrical pattern in the upper portion, narrow sidelights, and a wide multi-light transom above.

Second-storey fan windows are located on the east and west elevations, and on the center bays of the north and south elevations. The upper end windows on the north and south elevations have multi-light rectangular transoms.

Though the interior of the building has been thoroughly renovated, the exterior has remained basically unaltered. Several window openings have been bricked, but no structural changes have been made. The courthouse remains in good condition on its original site, a tree-shaded corner in the Charleston business district.

C] SIGNIFICANCE

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ر. با	STORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION	
 1400 -1	1499	-ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	_LAW -	SCIENCE	
1500-1	1599	AGRICULTURE	-ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE	
_1500-1	1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
_1700-1	1799	ART	_ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER	
	1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION	
<u>K</u> 1900-		COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	X POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)	
			_INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1923

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Frank W. Gibb

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The largest number of architecturally significant buildings in Arkansas are the courthouses located in the state's seventy-five counties. The county courthouses serve as the focal point of local political activity, and are often the most architecturally significant structures in their area.

Franklin County, spanning the Arkansas River in the western part of the state, is one of ten Arkansas counties to have two county seats. Named for Benjamin Franklin, the county was created from Crawford County on December 19, 1837. The first permanent county seat was located at Ozark, which lies north of the Arkansas River. Almost fifty years later, on March 14, 1885, a second county seat was established at Charleston to serve the southern part of the county.

In 1923 a prominent Little Rock architect, Frank W. Gibb, was hired to design a new courthouse for Franklin County's southern district. The Charleston courthouse, built by contractor E. W. Jenkins, is a simple rectangular structure of red brick. Pilasters divide the walls into a series of bays. Window treatment, with fan windows around a part of the second storey, is in harmony with the simple style of the flat-roofed building.

Located on its original site in the principal business district, the Franklin County Courthouse at Charleston is an architectural landmark in this west Arkansas community.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Col McI Roc Works Pro	of Arkansas Court lonial Dames of Am Donald, Chairwoman om, Little Rock Pu Dogress Administrat chives. Arkansas H	erica in the Sta , Historical Act blic Library. ion. Franklin (te of Arkansas. ivities Committe County, c. 1940.	Mrs. W. G. ee. Arkansas	
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TENSAE BOOT				2	
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ARKANSAS HISTÓRIC PRESERVALIUN PRUGRAM



"THE OLD STATE HOUSE" 300 MEST MARKHAM LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 7.22 TELEPHONE - 501 371-1'

APR 1 6 1976

OWNER'S APPROVAL PROPERTY

Franklin County am the legal owner of the Franclin County Courthouse located at

ansas

Charleston

1 hereby acknowledge that 1 have been fully informed and understand the significance of having the aforementioned property placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

I hereby approve the inclusion of the aforementioned property on the National Register of Historic Places.

1976 Date