

6-01-W045-33

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED

NR 12-12-76

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

Bradley County Courthouse and County Clerk's Office BR0001

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Warren

STATE

Arkansas

VICINITY OF

CODE
05

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fourth

COUNTY
Bradley

CODE
011

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

X BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

X PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

X OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

X YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

X GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Bradley County (James W. Earnest, County Judge)

STREET & NUMBER

Bradley County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Warren

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Circuit Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Bradley County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Warren

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
☒ EXCELLENT	☐ DETERIORATED	☐ UNALTERED	☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ GOOD	☐ RUINS	☒ ALTERED	☐ MOVED DATE _____
☐ FAIR	☐ UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Centered on the courthouse square in the southeastern Arkansas town of Warren, the Bradley County Courthouse is a two-story brick structure with an unusual combination of classical characteristics. The building was designed by Little Rock architect Frank W. Gibb and contracted by E. L. Koonce.

An unusual feature of the building is its decorative usage of two colors of brick. The rusticated wall surface of brick on the first floor level and brick quoins (almost resembling brick pilasters) are a distinctive characteristic of the building. Resting upon a brick foundation, the structure is covered by a pavilion roof. The building features a water table and belt course of cut stone. As in other courthouses designed by Frank W. Gibb, the building consists of a central core flanked by wings and towers. Also typical of Gibb's designs, the core of the building projects slightly.

The facade (south elevation) is divided into three sections. The central core of the building is marked on the south by a white eaves balustrade. The entry is distinguished by a one-story flat-roofed portico supported by Tuscan columns. The roof of the porch is surrounded by a railing with turned balusters, identical to those on the eaves balustrade. The recessed entry is marked by a cut-stone arch with keystone and flanked by Tuscan pilasters. First floor windows are double-hung and covered by awnings. Three windows span the width of the second floor center facade. These windows are paired, double-hung and topped by a round arched multi-light transom, painted white. A cut-stone keystone is found on each of the windows. Four brick pilasters with cut-stone bases and Doric capitals separate and flank the three windows.

Located on the east side of the facade is a two-and-one-half story tower, divided by a cut-stone water table and cut-stone belt courses into three sections. The tower features, on the first floor level, a single double-hung window on its east and south elevations, and pairs of tall, slender double-hung windows over which are a pair of small arched windows topped by brick arches at the second level. The top section of the tower features arched openings supported by small Corinthian columns, and denticulated cornice, capped by a pavilion roof.

The dominate feature of the building is the clock tower, located at the southwest corner of the building. The three-stage tower has the same groupings of windows as the smaller tower with the exception of the upper level arched windows. On the clock tower these pairs of arched windows are double-hung and feature small single-pane windows directly underneath, utilizing the lugsills of the arched windows as lintels. Dentils are found in the cornice beneath the four-faced round clock, while above modillions are used in combination with the denticulated cornice. The clock is flanked on all four elevations by coupled Tuscan brick pilasters. Surmounting the clock tower is a cupola with arched openings, dentiled cornice and hexagonal roof with finial.

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arched windows with keystones, gauged brick voussoirs, denticulated cornices, and the usage of two colors of brick. A cut-stone water table extends around the entire building. The most distinctive feature of the building is the clock tower located on the southwest corner. The main body of the tower is two-and-one-half stories with a four-faced clock located atop. Centered above the clock is a cupola featuring archways, denticulated cornice and a hexagonal roof.

Located directly east of the courthouse is a one-story brick building with a high-hipped roof. Constructed in 1890 this structure functioned as a County Clerk's Office. The building is now used as a library.

Constructed in 1903, the Bradley County Courthouse stands in the center of Warren's business district. As the largest and most significant structure in the county, the courthouse is an architectural and historic landmark in Bradley County.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☒ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☒ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1903

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Frank W. Gibb

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The largest number of architecturally significant public buildings in Arkansas are the courthouses scattered over the state's 75 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.

Bradley County, Arkansas, is situated in the southeastern part of the state. The county covers 659 square miles and ranges from 102 feet to 300 feet above sea level. The county's most southern point is only eight miles from the Arkansas-Louisiana border. A wide central forest land called the Prairie Terrace is found within the county's boundaries.

Captain Hugh Bradley, while with General Andrew Jackson at New Orleans, had learned of the Arkansas country. In 1818 he and a few of his neighbors came up the Red River on an exploring expedition. Around 1825 Captain Bradley and his company settled on the Saline River, just east of what is now Warren.

Bradley County, at the time of its formation December 18, 1840, comprised all of the territory now included in Cleveland, Lincoln, Ashley and Drew Counties. The seat of government was established at the home of Captain Bradley with the first county court being held there on April 5, 1841. In 1842, the town of Warren, named for Captain Bradley's slave, was laid out on a donated tract of land about forty acres in size. In 1843, a courthouse was constructed on the same spot which is now used as the courthouse square. This building was of log construction, featuring a fireplace on either end.

By 1858 a new courthouse was needed to house the Bradley County government. Contractors Sweeney, Copeland and Pennington were hired to construct a new courthouse. Completed in 1861 at a cost of \$7,498, the new building was a two-story brick structure covered in stucco.

The present Bradley County Courthouse, the third to be located on the site was constructed in 1903. Architect Frank W. Gibb of Little Rock designed the building with E. L. Koonce as contractor.

The Bradley County Courthouse is an impressive two-story brick structure with towers. Distinctive features of the building include brick quoins,

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Hipped roofed wings contain east and west elevation entries. The single door entries are marked by a one-and-one-half story gabled bay with denticulated cornice. A pair of double-hung windows are located at the story-and-a-half level of the bays.

The north elevation of the building is divided into three sections, composed of the central core and east and west elevation wings. Window design is the same as on the facade with three arched windows in the center of the second story.

Interiors of the Bradley County Courthouse remain minimally altered, containing colorfully patterned ceramic tile floors and decorative central stairways. There have been no additions made to the building.

The County Clerk's Building is located to the east of the courthouse. Built in 1890, the small, pavilion roofed, one-story brick structure is now used as a library.

The Bradley County Courthouse, as one of the most architecturally significant structures in the county, is an important local landmark. In excellent condition, the courthouse has long served a central role in the political and governmental life in Bradley County.

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Works Progress Administration File. Bradley County. On file at Arkansas
History Commission, Little Rock, Arkansas.

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. Arkansas Gazette. January 6, 1941. Goodspeed Publishing Company. Biographical and Historic Memoirs of Southern Arkansas. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1890.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	5	5	8	6	8	8	0
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3	7	1	9	6	4	0
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ZONE EASTING

NORTHING

B

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ZONE EASTING

NORTHING

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

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D

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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

9-14-76

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

Anne Bartley

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 9-14-76

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

Bradley Cty Chse
Frank Gibb

