

38-03-P165-33

NR 12-16-70

Form 10-300
(July 1969)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

Arkansas

COUNTY:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:

Powhatan Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Location as shown on annexed map

CITY OR TOWN:

Powhatan

STATE

Arkansas

CODE

03

COUNTY:

Lawrence

CODE

075

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District	☒ Building	☒ Public	☐ Occupied	Yes:
☐ Site	☐ Structure	☐ Private	☒ Unoccupied	☐ Restricted
☐ Object	☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☐ Preservation work in progress	☒ Unrestricted
☐ No				
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
☐ Agricultural	☒ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☐ Other (Specify)	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Lawrence County

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Walnut Ridge

STATE:

Arkansas

CODE

03

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:

Lawrence County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Walnut Ridge

STATE:

Arkansas

CODE

03

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Some Historic Buildings of Arkansas, A. Edwin Kendrew,
James R. Short, Henry A. Judd, John L. Ferguson

DATE OF SURVEY: October 1968

☐ Federal☒ State☐ County☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Arkansas History Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:

300 West Markham Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Little Rock

STATE:

Arkansas

CODE

03

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed ☐

INTEGRITY

(Check One)

Altered ☐ Unaltered ☐

(Check One)

Moved ☐ Original Site ☐

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The site of the courthouse is a commanding one overlooking the Black River. It was apparently designed with great care and with consideration of its aesthetic relationship to the site selected. It was built upon the site of a prior courthouse which had been constructed in 1873 and burned in 1885. The present courthouse has the date 1888 inscribed in the pediment. The building is designed in the Victorian style common to this country in the 1880's.

The foundation is of natural stone, quarried locally, and apparently goes down to solid rock. The building itself is a two-story brick. The brick was manufactured locally and the ruins of the old kiln in which it was fired are still in existence. The brickwork was well done in common bond with fine color and texture. Two story brick pilasters emphasize the corners and bays of the building, giving it a monumental appearance. The segmental arches of the windows and the fine tower are impressive elements. The roof is of a modified mansard style and is covered with metal shingles. Yellow cypress was used in the roof structure and in the exterior trim.

Alterations were evidently made on the building during WPA days. Modern fireproof and burglarproof vaults were installed in certain sections of the building. The chineys do not match the original drawings.

It is very doubtful if the building or grounds have altered much from the time they were plotted and constructed. Comparison of a 1931 photo with photos taken in 1969 show virtually no change during that period other than that of minor deterioration.

SEE LIST 101

C. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century ☐
15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☐ 19th Century ☐

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal ☐	Education ☐	Political ☐	Urban Planning ☐
Prehistoric ☐	Engineering ☐	Religion/Philosophy ☐	Other (Specify) ☐
Historic ☐	Industry ☐	Science ☐	
Agriculture ☐	Invention ☐	Sculpture ☐	
Art ☐	Landscape ☐	Social/Humanitarian ☐	
Commerce ☐	Architecture ☐	Theater ☐	
Communications ☐	Literature ☐	Transportation ☐	
Conservation ☐	Military ☐		
	Music ☐		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

The design and construction of the Powhatan Courthouse reflects the search for styles by the architects of the period. The building displays an Italian influence in the brackets, dormers and modified mansard roof. It combines, also, other architectural qualities which were popular throughout this country during the Victorian period. Most exemplary would be the elaborate decoration of the architectural wood details of the building.

Although the building has suffered considerable wear and tear, and a good many architectural features were damaged, there is ample evidence of the original fabric to make an authentic restoration possible. The main stairway, which lies to the right on the river side of the building is intact. The stair newel and handrails are impressive in their substantial construction. Although some balusters are missing, there is a sufficient number available to serve as examples for restoration of the original balustrade. The story heights are extremely great, creating an impressive example of a commodious county structure. The courtroom is unusually large and also has an extremely high ceiling on the second floor level.

In a report titled "Some Historic Buildings of Arkansas," prepared for Governor Winthrop Rockefeller in October of 1968 by A. Edwin Kendrew, John L. Ferguson, et al, the following statement was made,

"It would be highly desirable to preserve and eventually restore and exhibit this building as a landmark of the history and development of the area and its former importance as a port town and county seat."

The building is architecturally significant due to the fact that it is one of the few remaining buildings of that period left in that portion of the State. The original design and construction are still intact and restoration is economically feasible due to the relative soundness of the structure.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

American Guide Series. Arkansas, A Guide to the State. New York: Hastings House, 1941.

Hempstead, Fay. Historical Review of Arkansas. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1911.

McLeod, Walter E. Centennial Memorial History of Lawrence County. Russellville, Arkansas: Russellville Printing Co., 1936.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE			
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "	36	04	54
NE	° ' "	° ' "	91	07	12
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:	
Jack E. Porter, Administrator, Historic Preservation Program	
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Arkansas Planning Commission	10/20/69
STREET AND NUMBER:	
Game and Fish Building	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE
Little Rock	Arkansas
	CODE
	03

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

Name

John M. Peterson
John M. Peterson

Title

Executive Director

Arkansas Planning Commission

Date

10/27/69

I hereby certify that this property is included in the

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

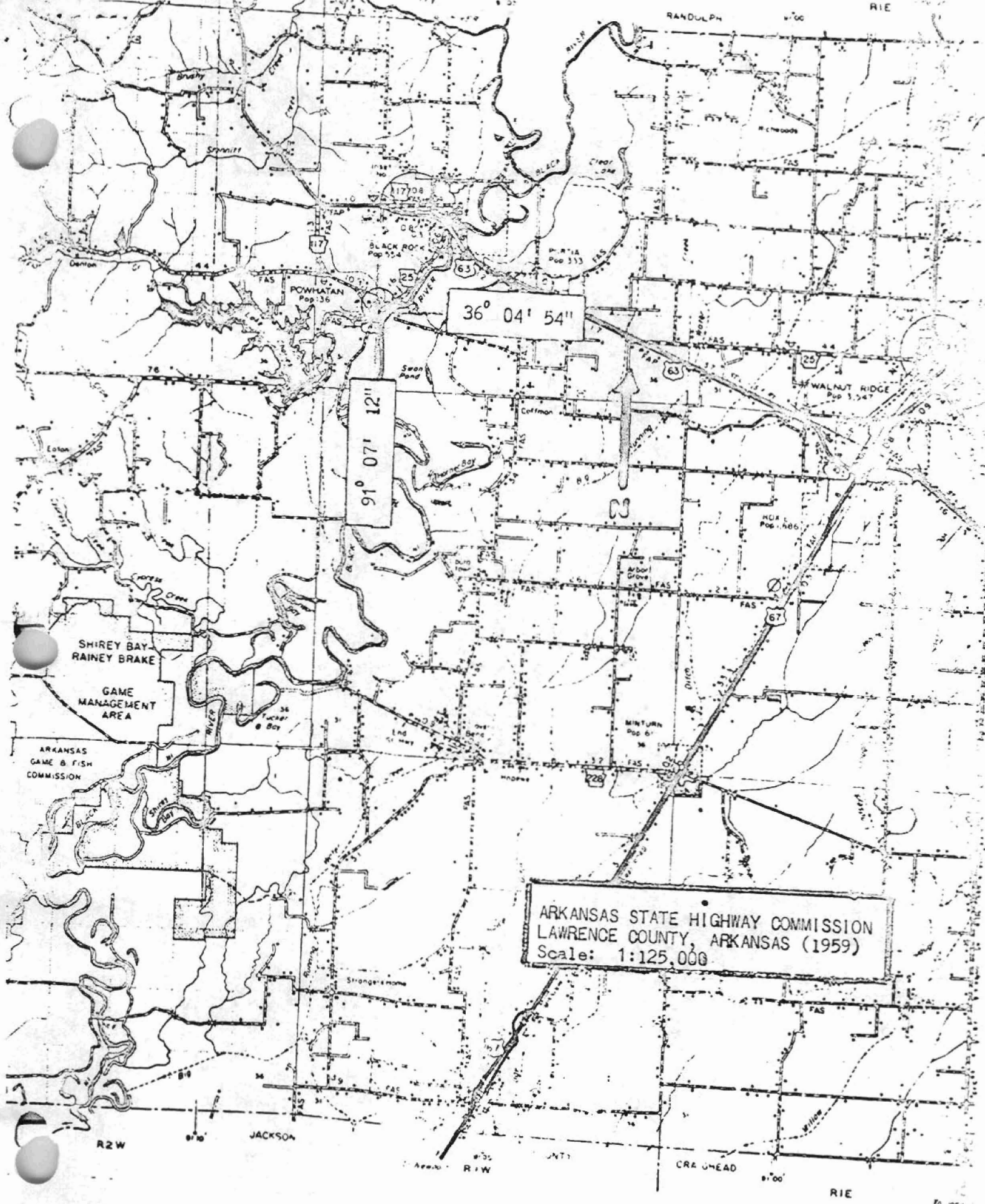
Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



36° 04' 54"

91° 07' 12"

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION
LAWRENCE COUNTY, ARKANSAS (1959)
Scale: 1:125,000

SHIREY BAY
RAINEY BRAKE

GAME
MANAGEMENT
AREA

ARKANSAS
GAME & FISH
COMMISSION

R2W

JACKSON

R1W

CRAHEAD

RIE