United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Benton County National Bank

and or common Bentonville City Hall

**2. Location**

street & number 123 West Central

N/A not for publication
city, town Benton City

state Arkansas code 05

**3. Classification**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>district</td>
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<td>occupied</td>
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<tr>
<td>building(s)</td>
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<td>unoccupied</td>
<td>commercial</td>
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<tr>
<td>structure</td>
<td>both</td>
<td>work in progress</td>
<td>educational</td>
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<tr>
<td>site</td>
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<tr>
<td>object</td>
<td>in process</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>being considered</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>industrial</td>
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**4. Owner of Property**

name Bentonville City

street & number 123 West Central

city, town Bentonville

state Arkansas

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Benton County Court House

street & number Courtsquare

city, town Bentonville

state Arkansas

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N/A

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date

__ federal __ state __ county __ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state
7. Description

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
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<tr>
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<td>unaltered</td>
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<tr>
<td>fair</td>
<td>deterioration</td>
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

**SUMMARY**

Built in 1906, the Benton County National Bank was designed by Albert Oscar Clark, a prominent Bentonville architect. Based on the Roman temple form, arches are the reoccurring design element of the building. Both the interior and exterior are beautifully detailed, the latter being highlighted by a domed skylight and a colorfully tiled floor.

**ELABORATION**

The Benton County National Bank, a rectangular one story building with an imposing Roman temple front, was designed by Albert Oscar Clark in 1906. Located on the south side of Central Street near the downtown square of Bentonville, the building's west elevation is a party wall, as the bank is at the corner of a block of storefronts.

The building has three symmetrical elevations and a flat roof, in the center of which is a domed skylight. A tall parapet with stone coping, which is stepped on the front facade, disguises the dome. The Roman temple front of the Benton County National Bank is supported by four polished marble columns with modified Corinthian stone capitals with moulded bases resting upon stone plinths. Directly behind the two end columns are square pilasters with identical detailing. The building is set upon a podium, with steps between the stone column bases on the front, and rusticated stone on the side and rear elevations. The columns support a plain entablature above which is a bracketed projecting cornice. Four of the brackets are larger than the rest and are adorned with acanthus leaves. The tympanum is embellished with a pattern carved in relief. The front facade is faced with dressed stone, while the remaining elevations are brick. The central entrance consists of double doors with glass windows, and a fixed, single paneled arched window above. Two windows, one on each side of the doorway, duplicate the fenestration of the entrance. The fixed portion of each is identical to that above the door, and the bottom portion of both windows are divided by mullions into three vertical sections. A flat-roofed rectangular office, equal in width but approximately half the height of the temple form extends from the rear of the building. The rear elevation of the office has three double-hung windows, one of which is smaller than the others, a door with a transom and three small basement windows, all with segmental brick relieving arches. The full height portion of the rear elevation, which rises above the roof of the office, has two arched fenestrations like those on the front facade. The side wall of the office joins that of the main portion of the building. Because of the rear office the east elevation (side) is of two heights. The portion corresponding with the office has two double-hung windows with brick relieving arches. The other portion of the east elevation that is equal...
in height with the front facade, has five arched windows, equally spaced side by side, of the same type, size, and height as those on the front of the bank. A continuous horizontal stone band intersects with the five windows at their midpoint. The arched surround of the window is rusticated brick and a narrow projecting brick band follows the line of the stone band and window surrounds. A continuous stone band that marks the intersection of the roof slope and parapet runs the entire length of the side elevation.

Highlighting the finely detailed interior is a domed circular skylight. Though the walls and ceilings are plaster, wood trim was used extensively to delineate the interior's many arches. Wood arches, coinciding with the windows of the east and rear elevations adorn the rear end partition and west wall. All woodwork is original, as is the glazed brick fireplace of Craftsman influence. A highly decorative floor of locally produced tile is laid with a colorful starburst design beneath the skylight. The majority of the floor is laid in white tile with regular spaced pattern and decorative borders. Positioned between the arches on both side walls are wood pilasters with Ionic capitals. On either end of the skylight, the walls are arched and the ceiling vaulted. The rear office, which is more simply detailed, is highlighted by a green tile fireplace.

Alterations to the building include the addition of a partition at the rear end of the lobby, the details of which echo those of the rear wall. Behind the partition are restrooms and an office. The Benton County National Bank Building now serves as the city's courtroom.
### 8. Significance

#### Specific dates 1906

**Builder/Architect** Albert Oscar Clark

#### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

**SUMMARY**

The Benton County National Bank building was constructed in 1906 to house one of the early banking institutions of Bentonville. It is an outstanding design of Albert Oscar Clark, an architect with offices in nearby Rogers. Clark moved to northwest Arkansas in 1904 after having successfully practiced his craft in St. Louis, Missouri. Many of Clark's finest designs are in the classical mode and include three National Register properties in Benton County (Applegate Drugstore, Bank of Rogers and the Massey Hotel). The original construction cost of the Benton County National Bank was 5,700 dollars. The bank served a community which in 1906 was strongly agrarian. Northwest Arkansas during the later portion of the 19th century and the first decades of the 20th century was a heavy apple producer. Throughout Benton County were storage and canning facilities for apples and the other fruits which did so well in the area. **Evaporators and cider plants were in abundance as well. It was this large fruit production industry and those that worked in it that served as the Benton County National Bank's clientele. In July of 1930, the First National Bank of Bentonville consolidated with the Benton County National Bank. However, by December of that same year the bank had closed its doors, fearing a run by depositors. In 1934, the building was sold to the city of Bentonville and has since served as office space. Restoration work undertaken in 1981 and 1982, provides an ideal space to house the municipal court.**
9. Major Bibliographical References


10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: less than one

Quadrangle name: Bentonville South, Ark.

UTM References

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<tr>
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</table>

Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Parts of: Lot 119 & 120; Original Town

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Ryoichi Takahashi (ed. by the staff of the AHPP)
organization: Community Planning, U. of Ark.
date: July 28, 1983
street & number: 724 Maple
telephone: 575-5659
city or town: Fayetteville
state: Arkansas

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national: ___ state: ___ local: X

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: [signature]
date: 7-29-83

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration