

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Ozark Courthouse Square Historic District

other name/site number N/A

2. Location

street & town Portions of Second Avenue, Church, Elm, & Second streets on the courthouse square N/A not for publication

city or town Ozark N/A vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Christian code 043 zip code 65721

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mark A. Miles Dec. 17, 2008  
Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles/Deputy SHPO Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain): _____	_____	_____



Ozark Courthouse Square Historic District  
Name of Property

Christian County, Missouri  
County and State

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

**A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

**B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

**C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

**D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

**A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

**B** removed from its original location.

**C** a birthplace or grave.

**D** a cemetery.

**E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

**F** a commemorative property.

**G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

### Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

COMMERCE

ARCHITECTURE

### Period of Significance

Circa 1880-1945

### Significant Dates

N/A

### Significant Persons

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Hohenschild, Henry H.

Russell, Don

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

# \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Engineering

Record # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other Name of repository:

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Ozark Courthouse Square Historic District  
Name of Property

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County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 5.277

**UTM References**

(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 1/5 4/8/1/6/4/7 4/0/9/7/2/7/9  
Zone Easting Northing

2 1/5 4/8/1/8/4/5 4/0/9/7/2/4/8  
Zone Easting Northing

3 1/5 4/8/1/8/4/7 4/0/9/7/0/6/1  
Zone Easting Northing

4 1/5 4/8/1/6/4/3 4/0/9/7/0/6/5  
Zone Easting Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)  
See Continuation Sheets

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)  
See Continuation Sheets

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Katherine Dowdy

organization Heritage Research Company date August 2008

street & number 115 East Church Street telephone 417.581.4715

city or town Ozark state MO zip code 65721

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs:** Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

name/title multiple owners, see continuation sheets

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 **Ozark Courthouse Square Historic District  
Christian County, Missouri**

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### Summary

The Ozark Courthouse Square Historic District includes portions of Second Avenue, Church, Elm, and Second streets around the courthouse square in Ozark, Christian County. At the center of the square is the Classical Revival Christian County Courthouse designed by H. H. Hohenschild, Surrounded by a green lawn. The commercial square is laid out in a modified four block square plan with streets entering the square on each corner and in mid-block on two sides. The buildings in the district were constructed between c. 1880 and 1945 and reflect vernacular types typical of small town commercial centers. Most are one- and two-part commercial blocks constructed of brick, through some have pressed metal façade or other stone or metal details. A church and the courthouse display more high-style characteristics and anchor the district. The community building, constructed in 1934 using WPA funds, is clad in local stone and reflects local vernacular building traditions as well as the rustic style prevalent in New Deal era construction in Missouri. There are 27 buildings, one structure, and three objects within the boundaries of the district. Of these, 19 buildings contribute to the historic character and significance of the district. Eight buildings, one structure and the three objects are non-contributing due to alterations to their historic character, or age. Though the square has experienced some loss of buildings and alterations to the historic character of others, the district is largely intact and reflects its historic integrity and period of significance.

### Introduction

The city of Ozark is located in Christian County approximately fifteen miles south of downtown Springfield, the largest city in the southwest region of the Missouri Ozarks. Ozark was established in 1848 and has served as the seat of Christian County since its designation in 1859.

The Ozark Courthouse Square is configured with a central courthouse building and lawn, three sides surrounding on the east, north, and west that are devoted to commerce, and the south side that is occupied by public buildings (Justice Building and the WPA Community Building). The boundaries of the historic district include all of the north and west sides of the square, buildings on the northeast corner of East Church and Second Avenue, a WPA buildings on the southwest side, as well as buildings within one block, just off the square on East Church, North Second Street, and West Elm.

Fifteen of the nineteen contributing buildings within the district boundaries were built between circa 1880 and 1930 which coincides with the historical social and economic development of the town, and that is typical of the growth and development of the Ozarks cultural and geographical region. The pattern of growth throughout the region is typical of the Upland South in that after the end of the Civil War in 1865 overcoming the devastating social and economic impacts was painfully slow for the most rural areas. It was the arrival of the railroad in the 1880s that finally turned the tide, especially for those fortunate towns that received lines directly through their jurisdictions.

As a direct result of historic preservation activities in downtown Ozark, several buildings have undergone changes within the past ten years, but most improvements were met with approval of the Missouri State Historic Preservation Program through the process of two HUD funded Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). The improvements associated with the CDBG overall program included upgraded infrastructure of the square area such as installations of new herringbone brick paver sidewalks along all

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four sides (this sidewalk design was based on the remnants of historic brick sidewalks on the square and in parts of adjacent historic neighborhoods); new street lighting with emphasis on a replicated historical design as observed in historic photographs of the Ozark square; and the replacement of trees along all sidewalks, as again observed in historic photographs of the square. Private investment in building improvements also associated with the CDBG program included the reclaiming and upgrading of neglected and degraded storefront materials; many storefronts had suffered from either the removal or concealment of historic materials and architectural features. The historic storefronts of ten contributing buildings within the district boundaries that have been recovered through the removal of non-historic materials since the undertaking of the CDBG revitalization project in downtown Ozark are as follows: 204 West Elm; 105 and 107 South Second Street; 115/117 and 209 North Second Street; 103/105, 101 West Church; 101/103, and 127 East Church Street; and 120 North Second Avenue.

The individual buildings of the Ozark Courthouse Square Historic District are listed here in the following format: in underlined and bold subheadings, by street address in ascending order beginning with the courthouse building, then on the north side with Church Street (East & West); Elm Street (East & West) on the south side; Second Street on the west from south to north; and North Second Avenue on the east side. The historic name, or historic function, is provided when applicable, the date of construction in parentheses, followed by its status of “contributing” or “non-contributing.” The copies of historic images presented in this section (Section 7) are referred to as Figures to distinguish them from the current photographic documentation included in this nomination.

### **CHURCH STREET (North Side)**

#### **Christian County Courthouse (1920): Contributing.**

This is a three-story brick masonry, courthouse in the Neoclassical style, is square in plan with entrances on all sides that project from the elevation plane which enhances the drama of the entrances; its cast stone block masonry foundation extends to the first-story window sills; it has a full basement and a flat roof. The first story has red brick masonry while the masonry of the second and third stories is an orange brick. The upper two stories are delineated from the first by various linear cast stone elements. They include a cornice and continuous band that also serves as sill for second-story windows; a continuous band above third-story windows, then a cornice and wall caps.

Each entry porch is framed by an entablature of cast stone; the double-doors and undivided full-span transoms are metal replacements. The second and third stories of each projected elevation contain paired windows that are flanked by cast stone column pilasters spanning both stories. Cast stone balustrades occur in front of the second-story windows and again above the third-story cornice; a rectangular bas relief is set between the second and third story windows. Within the projected entrance façades, the entry is flanked by a one-over-one window, and a more narrow version occurs just above in the second story, then directly above in the third-story is a pair of inoperable oval windows that are framed by a decorative cast stone garland with an eagle perched above, wings spread.

The remaining fenestration pattern of each elevation consists of paired one-over-one single hung replacement aluminum windows, three sets on either side of the entrance elevation. The windows in the third story are notably shorter than those of the other levels, but this appearance is due to the loss of the original design in the second-story windows when they were recently replaced (c. 1980s). Historic

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images and renderings of the building indicate that the design of the second-story windows included an upper lateral divide, or transom light, which made the size of the main window appear the same as the proportions of the third-story window (Figures 22, 23). A Mason's cornerstone containing the engraved names of the county judges seated at the time of construction is set in the northeast corner of the first story. This courthouse was designed by architect Henry H. Hohenschild in 1913 and completed in 1920.

Several features located within the boundaries are non-contributing and described as follows. A single story gazebo occupies a position on the northwest corner of the courthouse lawn. It is in octagonal plan with brick pilasters, concrete floor, wood balustrades, and eight metal columns that support a shake roof with cupola. This structure was erected circa 1970s-1980s and serves as a public space during festivals, parades, and other public ceremonies. A total of three objects are located on the courthouse lawn: (1) a cast stone concrete fountain erected by the American Legion along the sidewalk on the east side of courthouse lawn circa 1970s; (2) a single cast metal drinking fountain located near the west side sidewalk, is estimated at circa 1960s; (3) a large plywood sign mounted on a stone foundation, crafted by an Ozark High School Vo-tech class circa 1960s, and describes the saga of the Bald Knobbers who were hung on this location in 1889. Photograph #1, #34.

**101-103 East Church, Bank of Ozark/Masonic Lodge (1897): Contributing.** This is a three-story two-part commercial brick masonry building that occupies the northeast corner of East Church and First streets in the center of the north side of the courthouse square. It has a corner entry porch on the southwest that accesses the narrow left bay, one recessed storefront in the center, and an entry door on east end of façade that provides access to upper stories. Its foundation is cut limestone, and it has a flat roof. A decorative brick cornice adorns the façade, and all upper story windows have arched masonry hoods. It is large and symmetrical with a fenestration rhythm on two upper stories with windows of nine-by-three feet with arched brick lintels and limestone sills. The storefront in the corner building is intact with mostly original materials. The exception is the entry door which is a wood and glass replacement and all storefront glazing is replaced by single pane glass. The larger storefront in the east bay is a 2004 restoration. Local craftsmen recreated a replica of the lost storefront design by using several historic photographs, by studying the original storefront materials extant in the adjacent corner storefront, and by observing the visible footprint evidence revealed in the original floor and ceiling materials (Figures 18, 19, 20, 21). The raised wood panels below the display glass, however, were not carved or embellished to match the design in the original materials of the corner storefront in an effort to adequately distinguish the new storefront from the original. Photographs #16, #17, #18.

**127 East Church Street (1914): Contributing.** This is a two-story two-part commercial brick masonry building with a flat roof set on a cut limestone foundation. It has a decorative brick cornice that steps back to façade plane. Horizontal rows of cut and finished limestone are at signboard level, above the second story window lintels, above the cornice, and in the wall capping. The original storefront materials were concealed beneath paint and plywood until conservation work was initiated in 2004 (Figure 20) when the original storefront elements and some materials were found intact. The recessed entry retains its original mosaic tile floor, pressed metal ceiling, and transom openings above the large display windows and entry. Three out of four original sandstone slab window supports were found extant; the one found missing was in the recessed entry, a wood panel was inserted to fill this lacuna. These unusual sandstone elements had been concealed with paint, which was successfully removed to reveal a very soft and porous pearl white stone with green veining; its source could not be determined by local stone

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experts.

This building was constructed in 1914, and its west interior wall abuts the adjacent building on the left. Access to the second story is by stairs located in building to the west. Windows on the second floor are two-over-two double-hung wood replacements; while those on east side and rear elevations vary in size, all are two-over-two double-hung wood replacement windows with original arched wood lintels and cut limestone sills. Photographs #16, #17, #18.

**107 East Church Street, Christian County Farm Bureau Cabin (c. 1970s): Non-Contributing.** This is a one-story log cabin kit building with pitched side gable roof and full porch, located on the northeast side of the square. It has a deep set-back from curb; its rear elevation is in line with the back of the historic brick buildings on adjacent lots to west which creates a large yard space in front. It does not contribute to the historical context within the district. Photograph #18.

**201 East Church Street, First Baptist Church (1919): Contributing.** This is a massive two-story religious building of brick masonry on a concrete foundation. The roof is a parapeted cross gabled design. It occupies the northeast corner of the square so that each gable faces a prominent street while the grand corner entrance staircase faces courthouse square. The ground level story is concrete with stucco covering. Entry to sanctuary is on southwest corner, accessed by concrete steps rising to the second story doorway. The double entry has a triangular cast stone pediment and is flanked by pilasters. Decorative features include cast stone turrets to either side of primary entry, and a curved concrete walled stair. Cut stone lines the parapets and the wall corners have bracketed cornices. The building suffered a major fire circa 1937, the roof destroyed but the walls remained intact (Figure 25). It was fully restored as seen in Figure 26, as recorded in the 1960s.

The current windows are metal replacements with single fixed panes. Gothic arched stained glass windows are located in the north gable end: one large window is flanked on each side by smaller but identical arched windows. A modern addition of glass and metal was erected in 1976 and is attached to a recessed portion of the east elevation just right of the gable end. This addition is obviously historically incompatible in material and projects beyond the building's elevation plane. However, the primary or dominant view of the building and its corner entrance is from the square, and from either the south or west direction. So while this addition is troubling in its stylistic departure, its lack of weight and position on a recessed elevation does not unduly disrupt the perception of the original corner-façade design. A large, elongated brick structure was added to the back corner of this double lot and a portion of it connects to the rear northeast corner elevation. Photographs #19, 20.

**202 East Church Street, Methodist Episcopal Church (1914): Contributing.** This is a one and one-half story brick masonry religious structure with a (stone faceted) concrete masonry block foundation. The roof is gabled front and wing with end returns and wide eaves. There are two entries in the porch ell; the primary entry has double door set with small square lights at top and full transom; secondary entry is single door with same decorative glazing and transom. Historically, a bell tower occupied the current porch ell (Figure 27). It is unknown when, or why, this feature was removed. The current open porch is accessed by concrete steps. Windows are one-over-one single hung: four on the façade and three on west gable end. Round window openings are present in both gable ends above first story windows, although they are currently obscured. A single story enclosed porch of brick masonry and flat roof is attached at

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rear (south) elevation, apparently added shortly after initial construction. A second addition extends from the east corner of the rear porch; its construction date is unknown. The basement level has windows in and access door in primary elevations (façade and west, or gable ends. Photograph # 21, #22.

The building was constructed as a Methodist Church circa 1914. Its original design footprint (prior to the removal of its bell tower) mimics that of the 1909 (Disciples of Christ) church one block south at 206 East Elm (Figure 28). Photographs #22, #33.

**101 West Church, Robertson Brothers' Store (1882): Contributing.** This is a two-story brick two-part commercial block, facing south, with brick cornice on upper terminus of the façade as well as the east elevation. Original storefront is fully intact including historic double entry doors of wood and glass, and round cast iron pilasters that mark the central recessed entrance (Figures 12 and 13). The second -story entry is located on left of façade storefront, through a recess. The second-story window openings on façade and east elevations have arched lintels of brick masonry; windows are one-over-one metal replacements with the original wood framing concealed beneath vinyl flashing. Three small window openings in the first story east elevation are currently blocked with plywood panels. As part of a CDBG revitalization grant this original storefront was re-painted and a non-historic shake shingle and wood awning was removed and replaced with the current one made of cloth. Photographs #14, #15.

**103-105 West Church Street, Robertson Brothers' Store, the "Old Reliable" (1909): Contributing.** This large two-story two-part commercial block building is three bays wide located in the west block of the north side of the square and faces south. Its façade is faced with yellow brick masonry; a brick cornice occurs just above second-story windows, and a plane limestone course appears between the cornice and upper wall terminus. The original 1909 storefronts (Figures 13, 14, and 15) were altered (circa 1950-1960s, Figure 16) by the removal of lower wood and glazing with aluminum and glass; while the recessed entries of the two primary bays were sacrificed, the transom glass was retained intact. A portion of the smaller bay on the left (formerly 107 West Church) was infilled in the 1960s to accommodate the installations of a passenger elevator; work remains in progress.

Historic photographs and extant physical evidence guided a restoration in 2006 of the storefronts in the two primary entries of units 103 and 105. They consist of original transom windows above single pane storefront windows on wood paneled supports. Both recessed entries share porch. Historic photographs were also utilized in the design of replacement windows in the second story. Photographs #11, #13.

**109 West Church Street, Ozark Drug (1905): Contributing.** This is a three-story red brick two-part commercial building, two bays wide that anchors the corner at West Church and North Second streets on the northwest side of the square (Figures 12, 14, 15, and 16). It has two intact storefronts of metal cased glass, but transom lights are obscured. Both entry doors are wood with large single pane glazing. The entry in the east bay on right is within a recessed porch. The primary entry for the left bay storefront is within a corner recessed porch with a brick column support at the corner. The windows in the second floor are one-over-one single-hung with an arched brick lintel. Third story windows are ill-fitting replacements with plywood panels at the top that fill the gaps in the opening. Upper story windows are emphasized by a masonry arch keystone. The cornice steps back to meet the slight inset of the façade.

Brick column pilasters frame the building and another visually divides the two bays in the façade.

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Photographs #11, #12.

**201 West Church Street (c. 1980s): Non-contributing.** This is a single-story wood frame commercial building with a flat roof. This structure occupies the northwest corner of the square, built upon the footprint of a former hotel building that was destroyed by fire in 1950s. Due to its lack of age it does not contribute to the historic integrity or significance of the district. Photograph #8.

**203 West Church Street (c. 1970s): Non-contributing.** This is a single-story wood frame building with flat roof, rectangular plan, and stucco finish; it has wood and glass storefront with center entry. Due to its age this building the does not contribute to the historic significance of the district. Photograph #8.

**205 West Church Street (c. 1970s): Non-contributing.** This is a single-story wood frame building with gable front roof and corner entry, occupying the Church and Third Street entrance to the square. Due to its age this building does not contribute to the historic significance of the district. Photograph #8.

### **ELM STREET (South Side)**

**101 East Elm Street, WPA Community Building (1934): Contributing.** This is a single-story auditorium structure in a rectangular plan, finished in the Ozark flat rock sheathing, sometimes called “giraffe” due to its color and texture. Its long façade occupies the entire block on the southeast side of the square, with stepped parapet walls on both end elevations. Rhythmic pilasters break the plane of all elevations. The façade contains a single row of single hung metal replacement windows with multiple divided lights; the lintels are cut limestone masonry and the sills are of cut limestone slabs. The entry is located at right end of façade, facing Elm Street and courthouse square. Its single door is a modern commercial glass and aluminum replacement. Concrete steps provide regular access, and a non-historic access ramp runs a short distance along the façade to the left of the steps. Photographs #23, #24.

**204 West Elm Street (c. 1921): Contributing.** This is a two-story, single bay brick masonry building with cut limestone foundation and flat roof. Courses of cut limestone occur above the storefront, at sill height in the second story, and above second story windows. The façade has a typical large glass storefront with transom lights. The storefront door and second-story access door are wood replacements within original openings, and both include single transom lights. The storefront was rehabilitated circa 2005; the work included the removals of inappropriate materials and paint that obscured the transom glass above the display window and both entries. A modern commercial aluminum and glass door was replaced with a wood and glass door, and as was a non-historic wood door in the second floor entry—both replacement doors were milled to better reflect the style and antiquity of the building. This building was constructed to abut a larger, three-story building on the east (left) in 1920, however the larger building was razed in the 1980s and replaced with a single story brick with flat roof (202 West Elm). Photographs #25, #27.

**206 West Elm Street, Hospital: (c. 1945) Contributing.** This is a two-story concrete block masonry building with a stucco finish. The building was designed by Architect Don Russell, a native of Ozark who had recently returned from WWII-related military duty. He purportedly was inspired by buildings he had seen during his travels as a soldier in Europe. It is in rectangle plan with the primary façade in the long axis facing north. It has a steeply pitched hip roof with exposed rafter tails in the soffit. The single

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door entry is located in the center of the façade elevation in an open porch with flanking pilasters. The second story windows are five-ranked, one-over-one metal replacement units; the first story mimics this fenestration symmetry but, at the left end is a secondary entry door instead of a window. The window openings in both stories are the same dimensions. The interior retains much of its original floor plan and features related to its original purpose as a hospital. Photographs #26, #27.

**205 West Elm (c. 1914): Non-contributing.** This building is constructed of brick masonry on a limestone foundation with a modern pitched roof. It is rectangle in plan and its west long elevation hugs the curb of Third Street (State Highway 14). Garage style doors and regular single doorways to the side occupy both gable ends, and while it currently has a West Elm street address, the original entrance is on the west elevation facing Third Street. The brick masonry is painted and sheet metal siding is applied to end elevations above the entries to the roofline. The pitched roof and metal siding materials have adversely affected the integrity of this historic structure. Photographs #28, #29.

### SECOND STREET (West Side)

**101-103 South Second Street, Christian County Bank (c. 1886, 1910 façade): Contributing.** Two-story two-part commercial block brick masonry building located on the southern end of the west side of the courthouse square. The façade is tied to the three adjoining buildings to the north (Figure 7). This unified brick masonry façade (Figure 4 shows original façade, pre-1910) was constructed after a fire in 1909-1910 destroyed much of the buildings and façades of 105, 107, and 109/111 South Second Street (Figures 2, 3, 5, and 6). The two bays are divided on the first floor by stairs that access the second floor. The two storefronts retain their original footprint with corner recessed entry, cast iron columns, and transoms above display windows and entry doors. However, the storefront frame contains replacement glass and metal casing with aluminum and glass doors with side lights. The storefront windows are hooded with shake shingles. The windows in the second story have cut stone lintels and sills. There are five rankings of one-over-one windows, the center slightly narrower than the two on either side. As described in the five buildings to the north, the decorative brick cornice is the same. This building retains a herring bone brick sidewalk. The first story façade has cast iron pilasters and a column supporting the entry roof. Photographs #2, #3.

**105 South Second Street (c. 1910): Contributing.** This is a two-story, brick masonry, two-part commercial block building located on west side of the courthouse square; it is single bay and rectilinear in plan. It was built upon the footprint of a single-story building destroyed in a 1909-1910 fire. The storefront is original and recently reclaimed through a rehab project, circa 2005. This was part of a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project and was approved through SHPO consultation. The work consisted of the removal of inappropriate and non-historic materials that concealed many original façade and storefront elements (Figure 8). Broken or missing transom and display glazing was replaced, wood and metal features were stripped and repainted, and all brick masonry was repointed. Entry porch serves both the retail and second story access stair on right; it contains original mosaic tile floor with limestone threshold, and pressed tin ceiling. Windows in upper story are one-over-one wood replacements, with original cut limestone sills and lintels—original windows and frames had been removed by previous owners, circa 1960s-1970s. Brick façade and cornice tie this building to the one adjacent on the left and to the next two buildings to the right. This approach was the result of catastrophic fire that severely damaged several west side buildings in 1909-1910 (Figures 5, 6, and 7). Photographs

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#2, #4.

**107 South Second Street (c. 1910): Contributing.** This is a two-story, brick masonry, two-part commercial block building located on west side of the courthouse square; it is single bay and rectilinear in plan. Like its neighbor on the south (105 South Second Street), it was built upon the footprint of a single-story building destroyed in a 1909-1910 fire. As well, the storefront is original and was reclaimed through rehab work, circa 2005, through a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project (Figure 8). This single bay has a center entry with an original mosaic tile floor with limestone threshold (building foundation), and pressed tin ceiling. The upper story is accessed by adjacent stairway as described above (105 South Second Street). Windows in upper story are one-over-one wood replacements, with original cut limestone sills and lintels. The unified brick masonry façade and cornice tie this building to the one adjacent on the left (105 S. Second Street) and to the building to the right (109/111 S. Second Street). This approach was the result of the 1909-1910 fire that severely damaged several west side buildings (Figures 5, 6, and 7). Photographs #2, #4.

**109-111 South Second Street (c. 1901 w/1910 façade): Contributing.** This is a two-story, two-part commercial block of yellow brick masonry originally constructed in circa 1907. Located on the west side of the square, it shares the same unified façade as described for buildings at 101/103, 105, and 107 South Second Street (Figures 5, 6, and 7). It contains three bays, and retains an original storefront of large display glass panels and transoms. The left (south) bay contains a storefront of wood and large display glass with a recessed center entry porch. The center bay is deeply recessed that contains an entry for the center bay, an entry for second story access stair, and the side entry to the right bay. The entry retains original tile mosaic floor, limestone threshold, and pressed tin ceiling. The right bay on the north end has large display window. The recessed entry in the left bay was apparently added, according to historic photographic images of the building (Figure 9). The precise date of this alteration has not been ascertained; however, based on the materials used (wood, copper, and transom glass), the proportions in design with its large display glass, as well as the recess of the entry, it is assumed that the alteration occurred early in the building's history, no later than circa 1940s. A single metal awning spans the entire three bays of the building. The six upper-story windows are ill-fitting metal replacements of varying configurations; the original cut limestone lintels and sills are intact. The brick cornice is decorative with dentil stepping. Steel beam fascia above storefront transom windows include decorative florets. Photographs #2, #5.

**113 North Second Street (c. 1901-1905): Contributing.** Located on the west side of courthouse square, this two-story brick, two-part commercial block building has the same cornice and dentils as the building adjacent on the north, including an embossed metal sheathing in a stone block masonry design covering the second story façade topped by metal cornice (Figures 9 and 10). The original storefront is intact and consists of display window and original entry doors within porch; original mosaic tile floor and limestone foundation threshold are intact. The upper transom lights are intact but currently obscured beneath wood panels. The second story stairway access is on right within the entry porch. The four one-over-one windows in upper façade contain metal replacements. The entire façade is currently painted. Photographs #2, #6, #7.

**115-117 North Second Street (c. 1905): Contributing.** This is a two-story brick masonry two-part commercial block building located on the west block of the courthouse square, constructed as two 30-foot

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wide bays with a central entry accessing each bay, and a central stair that accesses the second floor. The first-story façade and storefront were formerly concealed beneath modern siding material, but were re-exposed circa 2005 (Figure 11); this rehab project entailed removing all non-historic materials which revealed the historic storefront in its entirety. The project then consisted of merely cleaning, painting, and glass replacement, for all historic materials were intact, as was confirmed by a historic photograph (Figure 10). The second story façade has an embossed metal sheathing in a stone-faced block design, based on historic photographs, the same as the adjacent building on left at 113 North Second Street, as described above.

The second floor retains most of the original layout of its historic function as a hotel with a wide hallway flanked by numerous room entries. These entries retain most of the original doorframes and transoms, as well as original wood trim and early 20<sup>th</sup> century era lighting fixtures of the circa teens and twenties. The hotel layout of rooms was retained as a result of the building subsequently functioning as apartment dwellings. Photograph #7.

**119 North Second Street (c. 1970s): Non-contributing.** This is a single-story building of historic brick masonry walls, but whose façade was removed and replaced with modern materials. Its current façade of brick masonry was constructed circa 2006. The original rear elevation was also removed and extended during the late twentieth century. Photograph #7.

**121 North Second Street (c. 1959): Non-contributing.** This is a single-story commercial structure of concrete block with stucco exterior finish. Storefront window of metal frame has frosted transom lights, as does the entry. Built circa 1959, the building has many façade features—such as full display window and transom glass—that complement the commercial retail theme of its historic neighbors on the west side of the square. Photograph #7.

**209 North Second Street, Ford Dealership (c. 1928): Contributing.** This is a single-story, one-part commercial block, brick masonry building with three storefront bays that face east. The massive building is of industrial or warehouse design with a flat roof, typical of the 1920s-1930s era, with a façade on North Second Street, and rear access to a full lower level on Third Street. Masonry is decorative utilizing two brick colors: a brownish red occurring primarily on lower portions, a light red on upper levels where the darker brick is used in simple line designs. The upper façade wall is expanded—to create the impression of greater height—to a parapeted roofline. Photographs #9, #10.

### SECOND AVENUE (East Side)

**120 North Second Avenue, Tin Shop (pre-1900): Contributing.** This is a two-story, brick masonry, two-part commercial block building with a flat roof. It is a single bay on the corner of East Church Street and North Second Avenue on the east side of the square. The masonry is of two distinct colors and composition. The façade and full cornice brick is hard, deep red in color while the side elevation brick is a soft sand brick, orange in color. Entries to commercial space and to stairway to residential space on second floor are from entry on right. The entry retains mosaic tile floor and pressed tin ceiling. Entry to commercial space is set on diagonal. Original store front glass was filled-in with a modern brick masonry in the 1950s; fortunately however, the configuration of the original storefront was relatively unharmed, the wood and glass materials apparently removed and totally filled with brick masonry (Figure 29).

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Windows are metal replacements, but the original wood framework is intact on all. The façade has two second story windows in a one-over-one configuration; the north street-side elevation has five windows in a one-over-one configuration. The first level on the north elevation has only a single door entry with transom. Photograph #22.

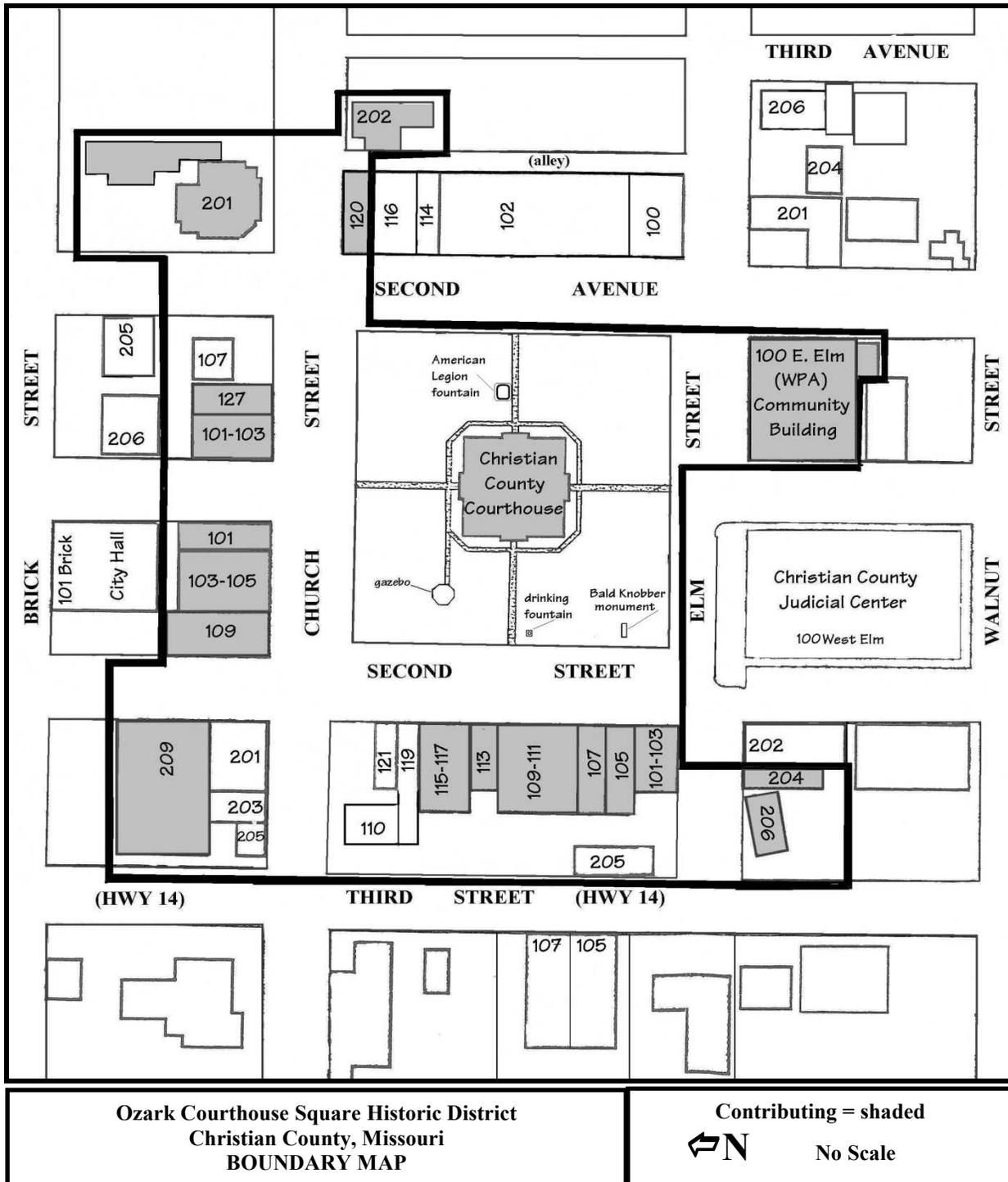
### THIRD STREET

**110 Third Street, (c. 1950s, 1970s): Non-contributing.** This is a single-story brick veneer, one-part commercial building with a flat roof. It is a cement block structure that originally had a stucco finish, as evidenced on rear elevation. The current brick veneer was added at an unknown date. While the building occupies a prominent corner at the Church Street entrance to the square, its mass and current finish materials do not contribute to the historical periods of significance of the district.

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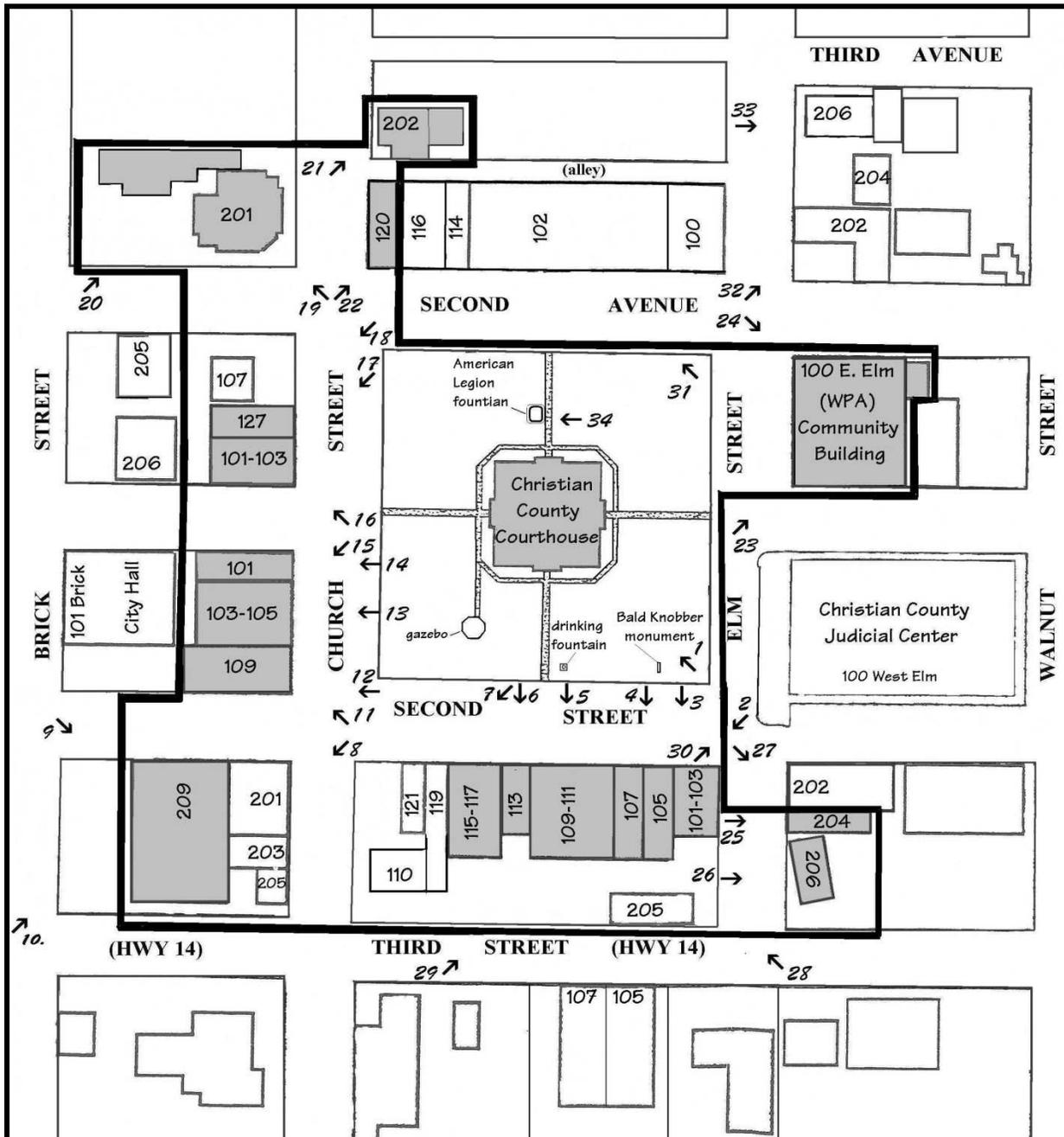
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<p><b>Ozark Courthouse Square Historic District Christian County, Missouri CAMERA STATIONS</b></p>	<p><b>Contributing = shaded</b>  <b>↗ = Camera View</b>  <b>↖ N</b>      <b>No Scale</b></p>
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### Summary

The Ozark Courthouse Square Historic District is located in the city of Ozark in Christian County and is locally significant under Criteria A and C in the areas of Commerce, Politics/Government, and Architecture. Homesteader A. N. Farmer established two locations for the city. The first was located across from Hoover Mill on the Finley River in 1840 and the second location was established in 1845 three blocks south and called "New Town." The current downtown and square is located in the New Town section and began to develop in earnest after the town became the seat of the newly established Christian County in 1859. The remoteness of the area limited early development and it was not until the arrival of the Springfield and Southern Railway Company in 1883 that the town realized a social and economic boom that lasted in to the 1930s. After the decline of the railroad, Ozark continued to benefit from activity generated by the courthouse and the central business district thrived into the 1950s as a local market place and social center. This general prosperity was assisted by the recreational and social buildings on and near the square which included two churches, a WPA-funded community building, and a small hospital constructed in 1945. The Classical Revival courthouse, designed by H. H. Hohenschild and completed in 1920, is the most high-style building in the district. Commercial buildings are vernacular one- and two-part commercial buildings typical of late-19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century commercial districts though their facades reflect changes in the architectural tastes and building techniques over time. The period of significance for the district is circa 1880 to 1945, the date of construction of the earliest building through that of last major contributing building in the district. This also represents the major period of development and prosperity in the district.

### Historical Background

The Enabling Act of 1820 granted to the Missouri territory permission to pursue statehood, which generally required the surveying of lands for the establishment of counties and county seats. This process developed initially in the most populated areas around the major riverways of the Missouri and the Mississippi. The more rugged and sparsely populated regions of the Ozarks were slowly added to the county system of government. As populations increased in areas of the Ozarks, some large counties were divided or portioned out in order to establish additional counties (Ohman 1983:7-9). Christian County was established in 1859 as the result of such a reorganization, taking portions of Greene County to the north, Taney to the south, and Webster to the northeast (Ohman 1983: 119; Vaughn, Gideon, and Pollard 1893).

The city of Ozark was surveyed in 1835, and land officially offered for homesteading in 1838 through the U.S. Land Office in Springfield, fifteen miles north. The beginning of Ozark as a community or village began in the 1830s with the building of the water mill on the Finley River by homesteader Joseph Kimberling. While the Finley River was too shallow to support substantial movement of goods or passengers, it sustained the operation of the Hoover Mill as the center of area commerce and political activity for this is where farmers brought their corn to be ground and it served as an official polling place while still in Greene County.

Other early homesteading claims by A. N. Farmer led to the establishment of two sites for the town of Ozark. The first claim was located on a bluff just east of the Finley River and the Hoover Mill,

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overlooking a spring that served as an early source of water for the town. A city square was designated and the first lots sold for residential and commercial occupation in 1843. However, a subsequent location farther south was later claimed by Farmer in 1845. It was deemed “New Town” and includes the current location of the Ozark downtown and courthouse square. Fifty acres were set aside in Ozark’s New Town in April 1859 for the newly established Christian County seat. It was surveyed by J. C. Inmann and by March 1860, lots were being sold in what is now downtown Ozark or Christian County Courthouse Square (Christian County Centennial 1959:23; Ohman 1983:34; Vaughan, et. al 1893).

Christian County is located within one of the most rugged and historically remote regions of the Missouri Ozarks. The earliest Euro-American occupants were attracted to the rough terrain because of what it offered in terms of rich game, abundant waters, and adequate isolation. Suitable for farming on only a subsistence level the Ozarks region was slowly populated by pioneers who migrated primarily from Tennessee, Kentucky, and West Virginia, as well as Ohio and Indiana. This slowness in growth continued throughout the nineteenth century, primarily based upon the ruggedness of the topography which dictated very arduous travel, and in turn, made the transport of manufactured goods into the area, or anything else out, difficult in even the best of conditions (Rafferty 2001:49; Sizemore 1994:7-15). Rafferty (2001:50) explains, “[t]his region of scanty resources served as a barrier that deflected immigration north and south. Only after the border regions of the Ozarks were settled did immigration begin to fill the interiors.”

Isolation then was determined by the terrain, and such isolation contributed to the prolongation of pioneer life-ways where mere subsistence and self-sustaining pursuits were the norm (Rafferty 2001: 52). The thin, rocky soils of the hollows that the earliest settlers seemed to prefer would not support intensive agriculture. Subsistence economy consisted of growing a vegetable garden and plenty of the very versatile corn plant, collecting honey, nuts, and wild greens, hunting large and small game, trapping, fishing, plus raising chickens, cattle, and hogs that fed on the forage of the woods and hollows (Rafferty 2001: 52, 152-54; Sizemore 1994: 12-13).

The White River flows through portions of the southwestern Missouri Ozarks and into north central Arkansas, then easterly to empty its waters into the Mississippi River. It was first navigated into northern Arkansas in the 1830s, and a short time later into southern Missouri, by the use of keel boats, and finally by steam-powered boats. While this finally provided easier access into the remotest portions of the Ozarks region, migration of settlers into the area—primarily from Tennessee and Kentucky—was slow for traversing up the White River was unreliable and difficult at best, and it still took wagons to finish the job of moving goods and materials to their destination (McCall 1961; Ingenthron 1963, 1974; Rafferty 2001: 49; Sizemore 1994:18).

The breakout of the Civil War in the early 1860s caused substantial setbacks for the small farmers of the southwestern Ozarks. Counties along the Arkansas and Missouri border experienced significant population losses during the war years, and although the state was eventually declared to be pro-Union its position as a border state was critically played out along the boundaries with Kansas on the west and Arkansas on the south (Rafferty 2001:51). Lawlessness was rampant, where outright thievery and violence were often veiled as guerrilla warfare. The criminal and guerrilla activities were perpetuated from both sides of the conflict and were “so fierce that by the end of 1864 ten counties along the Missouri-Arkansas border had been pillaged and torched so severely that much of the population had

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fled” (Rafferty 2001: 91).

The end of the Civil War left many counties destitute, in debt and de-populated, and recover was hampered by the same reasons that development was slow before all the ravages of war marauding. Many of the individuals who took advantage of the situation during the war years remained emboldened after the war’s end and continued their new found lifestyle of thievery and violence. To combat such widespread and rampant lawlessness, both during and after the Civil War, a number of vigilance committees were organized throughout the southwestern Ozarks in their efforts to aid and assist the regular law enforcement (Rafferty 2001: 93-95).

The Bald Knobbers are the best known of the vigilance organizations of the nineteenth century Ozarks, based on their well-documented notoriety. The full saga and ultimate demise of the Bald Knobbers is thoroughly described by Ingenthron and Hartman (1988) and Upton (1939).

The initial group of Bald Knobbers was formed in Taney County in March of 1885, the county located immediately south of Christian County, headed by a very powerful newcomer, Nat Kinney. Kinney was determined to turn the tide of immorality and lawlessness, albeit his very personal interpretation, that had dominated the county since the end of the Civil War some twenty years before. Through aggressive recruiting efforts, a small group of thirteen men with seemingly good intentions very soon became a very large gang of vigilantes who used violent tactics of intimidation to gain control over a most iniquitous population of reprobates (Ingenthron and Hartman 1988:35, 60-62).

As was the case with many civilian law enforcement organizations formed after the Civil War, leadership often had difficulty controlling its members’ enthusiasm for enforcement—some were prone to violence or heavy handedness in their dealings with the many so-called wrongdoers (Rafferty 2001:91-93). The Bald Knobbers efforts to rid the area of the lawless and generally immoral behavior were based in acts of violent intimidation which included beatings in the middle of the night, unethical political oppression, jury tampering, and even lynchings. The group’s members were sworn to secrecy under punishment of death, which seemed to many just as anti-establishment as any other hoodlum lurking in the deep woods awaiting unsuspecting prey (Ingenthron and Hartman 1988:52-55).

From the beginning anti-vigilante sentiment was strong and to combat such sentiment the Bald Knobbers would inflict similar punishments they used on regular offenders against those who complained or spoke ill of the group. As time passed and the brutality of Nat Kinney’s Bald Knobbers escalated, the so-called Anti-Bald Knobber group grew bolder and more determined to thwart the stranglehold Bald Knobbers had on the citizens, the politics, and the government of Taney County. They launched an all out campaign against the Bald Knobbers, wrote letters and essays to many newspapers, attempted to organize their own anti-militia militia, and petitioned the governor to intervene and establish martial law in Taney County in order to finally get the Bald Knobber gang under control (Ingenthron and Hartman 1988:59-91; Upton 1939: 15-20).

From a political perspective, the Bald Knobbers and the Anti-Bald Knobbers of Taney County generally aligned along party lines; that is, the Bald Knobbers were primarily Republicans and the Anti-Bald Knobbers were most often members of the Democratic Party. Adding fuel to this political definition, it was understood that Unionist were typically Republican and Southern sympathizers were usually

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Democrat. Although the Civil War had ended twenty years before, war torn emotions remained powerful in the hearts and minds of the Ozarks citizens (Ingenthron and Hartman 1988: 32; Rafferty 2001:91-93). It has been claimed that political soon power became the stronger ambition for Nat Kinney, the founder and leader of the Taney County Bald Knobbers, who sought to change the political makeup of Taney County government. The motivations of the Christian County Bald Knobbers, however, were never based on politics—Christian County was Republican from its inception (Spencer 2004:44; Vaughan, et.al 1893). It was the troublesome social situation in the timber shipping town of Chadwick that motivated Dave Walker to fully activate their chapter of Bald Knobbers; Walker requested and received Nat Kinney’s guidance on the matter in the spring of 1886 (Ingenthron and Hartman 1988:139-141; Upton 1939:104-110).

Chadwick was the terminus of a railroad line dubbed the Chadwick Flyer that ran from Springfield through Ozark and Sparta. With the arrival of the railroad in 1883, Chadwick became a boom town based upon the development of the timber industry in the area. Illegal saloons, called “blind tigers,” were soon thriving on the influx of timber harvesters, tie hackers, and wagon freighters who, with new money in their pockets, often congregated at the railroad shipping center. Ingenthron and Hartman (1988:139) write that “[t]he village earned a well-deserved reputation as a wild and turbulent town. Its attractions corrupted public morals, keeping husbands out at night and tempting wage earners’ money away from their families.” The initial work of the Christian County Bald Knobbers was to weaken the blind tigers by depleting their whiskey supply, one barrel at a time (Ingenthron and Hartman 1988:119; Upton 1939: 104-110).

But after one full year of vigilante pursuits, the heightened sense of power and self-righteousness that overcame the Taney County Bald Knobbers likewise overtook the altruistic goals of the Christian County Bald Knobbers. The beginning of their end was in the spring of 1887 when late one night a gang of Bald Knobbers led by William Walker, Captain Dave Walker’s son, descended upon a one-room cabin where eight members of the Edens and Green families were asleep, in including two small children. In a bloody and violent mayhem, two of the male occupants were murdered, the third was severely wounded, and one woman lost part of a finger to gunshot. One of the men sleeping in the cabin that night had reportedly spoken disparagingly about the Bald Knobbers earlier in the day, which prompted the late night attack (Ingenthron and Hartman 1988:154-163; Upton 1939:122-128).

It would be two full years before the legal process brought full closure to the 1887 Edens and Green murder and assault cases. Meanwhile, in August 1888, the founder of the original Taney County Bald Knobbers, Nat Kinney, was shot and killed effectively closing that chapter of vigilance. His killer was acquitted of murder charges, his actions having been deemed in self defense although most understood that it was an act of assassination (Ingenthron and Hartman 1988:265). A large number of the Bald Knobber defendants plead guilty to second degree murder and served prison sentences. Four men, including the captain of the Christian County vigilantes, were fully tried and found guilty of first degree murder and sentenced to execution by hanging. They were Dave Walker, his son William Walker, and brothers John and Wiley Matthews. The two Matthews men escaped from the Christian County jail and only John was recaptured to be hung alongside the Walkers on the Ozark Courthouse Square in May 1889. Wiley apparently escaped to the Oklahoma Ozarks in Indian Territory where he changed his name and avoided further prosecution (Ingenthron and Hartman 1988:225-229).

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The four-year saga of the controversial Bald Knobbers was well publicized in the regional and statewide newspapers after the Anti-Bald Knobbers mounted their campaign with the governor to bring them under control. The tragedy of the Edens-Green murders and the subsequent years of trials, and ultimately, the hanging of the condemned brought thorough and regular attention to Ozark, the seat of Christian County. On the day of the hanging execution on May 10, 1889, throngs of spectators gathered on the square and as Ingenthron (1988:234) describes that “the continuous flow of horses, wagons, buggies, and pedestrians clogged every road leading to Ozark.” Upton (1939:235) writes that “[t]he town was . . . full of visitors. Newspaper correspondents from many cities crowded Ozark and taxed the sending facilities of the telegraph station.” The Ozark courthouse square was the location of the dramatic conclusion of the twenty long years of post-Civil War strife in the Ozarks of southwest Missouri.

It was not until the arrival of the railroad in southwest Missouri in the 1880s that the production of agricultural goods for greater distribution became a viable pursuit in the remote regions of the Ozarks (Rafferty 2001:154). As well, timber was a big business in this fast-growing nation of the nineteenth century. In the mid-1800s the timber harvest and nationwide distribution began to shift from the northeast to the southern states with their great stands of southern pine. The Gasconade River valley—located northeast between the Ozarks and Saint Louis—was a good source for lumber products for the Saint Louis area between the 1820s and 1870s, but these timber resources were somewhat exhausted by the 1880s. The industry’s focus then shifted to the pine forests of the interior Ozarks region, which due to the transportation difficulties of a very rugged terrain, had remained relatively untouched. The arrival of the railroad in the Missouri Ozarks enabled timber companies to set up shop to harvest pine for building purposes, and oak for flooring, barrel staves, and the all-important railroad ties (Rafferty 2001: 154).

The development of the timber industry in the Ozarks was dependent upon the expansion of the railroad for the efficient transportation of large amounts of timber and lumber products. A branch of the Springfield and Southern Railroad, called the Chadwick Flyer, was completed in 1883 and ran from Springfield into Christian County through Ozark and Sparta, to its terminus in Chadwick. The Chadwick Flyer hauled timber and ties out of Chadwick and Sparta, produce and livestock out of Ozark, and moved people from those ports to Springfield, the largest town in the Missouri Ozarks region. The construction and the arrival of the railroad in the area created a real boon to the local economy as well as a significant population influx (Rafferty 1982: 87-89 and 2001: 49, 104-105, 163, 175-179).

The turn of the nineteenth century could be duly celebrated, for with the end of the Bald Knobber-era in 1889 undoubtedly came at least the symbolic end of the emotional and social grip of the Civil War in the turbulent southern Missouri Ozarks. In the *Foreword* of Robert K. Gilmore’s Ozark Baptizings, Hangings, and Other Diversions, Robert Flanders (1990: xiv) describes the social and cultural atmosphere of the Ozarks at the turn of the century:

. . . I suspect the turn-of-the-century generation was one that enjoyed something of an efflorescence in rural and small-town culture. The particular horror of the Civil War was sinking into history; railroads were still being built [along] with all the anticipation, optimism, excitement, and new experience that accompanied those portentous events. New people swelled the population . . . , new church denominations arrived with their programs and their organizations; public schools arrived in the same way. Indeed, much of the organizational and

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technical paraphernalia of modernity moved in. But the old ways, the old farms, roads, and buildings, the old people were not swept away or overwhelmed at once. The new and old coexisted in exuberant tension.

The arrival of the railroad in Ozark and Christian County in 1883 greatly effected the social and economic outlook of the area. Although Ozark had always occupied a place on the transport route between the larger town of Springfield to the north and the closest navigable water to the south, the White River, the road was rugged and long and the river travel was unreliable in times of low water. The railroad brought a variety of off-farm employment opportunities—such as clerical work, track building and repair, timber harvesting, and increased the already steady wagon freighting business—but it also drastically changed the way farmers farmed. As Rafferty (2001:158) states, “[t]he impact of railroads on agriculture was felt almost immediately” in that perishables such as fruits, vegetables, and dairy could be shipped to much broader markets than ever before. The increase of prosperity for all was not lost on the citizens of Ozark, for as agricultural pursuits became more intensified so did the general commerce. More and more commercial activity was evidenced by the steady increase in building construction around the square, and multi-storied brick masonry buildings began to replace the less substantial timber frame structures. The most plentiful types of businesses that came to occupy the Ozark square after the turn of the nineteenth century were general merchandise; hardware stores; drug stores, doctors’ clinics, and dentists offices; hotels and restaurants; and banks.

After 1900, dairy farming began to grow in importance to the farmers of the prairie lands with ample available grass for forage. The railroad made shipping of dairy to more markets possible, and therefore profitable. Springfield became a major dairy center, shipping products by rail to several larger markets in Saint Louis and Kansas City. Improved roads became important with the increased performance and popularity of the automobile during the late teens and twenties; new roads were eventually made possible by the creation of the Missouri Highway Department in 1917, the Centennial Road Act of 1921 that mandated roads be built between all county seats, and then Proposition 3 in 1928 provided funds for improving the farm-to-market roads in between (Rafferty 2001:165-167). As a direct result, the agricultural industries could also expand operations by creating access to the more remote farms located far from rail points. By the 1920s, the successful farming of cattle, dairy production, and produce was notable; strawberries and tomatoes grew well in the thin cherty soil of the Ozarks and became a significant source of agricultural income. Ozark was the scene of livestock, strawberries, and dairy shipping, and during the Depression Era, great hardships were offset by the increase in canning operations partially supported by federal relief programs (Christian County Centennial 1959: 30; Doss 1979: 5, 45; Rafferty 2001:162-63, 185-6).

### Commerce and Architecture

Little is known about the growth of Ozark in the immediate post-Civil War era. Its location on Finley Creek and role as the county seat likely gave it some advantages. By 1880, Ozark was Christian County's largest town, though Billings on the St. Louis & San Francisco (Frisco) Railroad may have given it some stiff competition. Ozark in 1880 was described as having

three general stores, one tin and stove store, one bakery, one butcher shop, two boot and shoe shops, one grist mill, one tobacco factory, two newspapers, one carpenter shop, two

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blacksmith shops, one church and one excellent school. Finley Creek affords fine water-power, and Ozark may ere long be a manufacturing town (Missouri Immigration Society 1881: 115).

By 1890 the population of Christian County had reached just over 14,000 with the largest population concentrated in Finley Township where Ozark is located. The township had 2,670 residents with 490 living in the county seat (Goodspeed Brothers, 1894; 23). The population continued to grow with the population of Ozark peaking at 830 in 1900, and remaining steady into the 1930s (Christian County, Missouri Census; n.p.). The increase in population is indicated by changes around the Ozark courthouse square. The early Ozark Sanborn Insurance maps of 1900 through 1930 show that lots in and around the courthouse square were steadily filled with new brick storefront architecture, and seem to support Flanders' claims of new prosperity and growth in the Missouri Ozarks at the turn of the century, and until the onset of the Great Depression. Using the existing Sanborn Insurance maps of Ozark, the following illustrates how the extant contributing buildings in the Ozark Courthouse Square historic district represent that growth. Note that the contributing buildings on Elm were built between circa 1931 and 1945, beyond the Sanborn Insurance documentation for Ozark, and three historic buildings located on 105-107 South Third and 206 East Elm streets lie just outside the boundary yet are representative of the district's growth and architectural character but due to position and/or integrity are not included.

1880-1900	120 North Second Avenue 101/103 East Church Street 101 West Church Street (103/105/107 West Church Street, single story building) 101/103 South Second Street 109/111 South Second Street
1901-1906	109 West Church Street 115/117 North Second Street 113 North Second Street
1907-1914	127 East Church Street 202 East Church Street 103/105/107 West Church Street, two-story w/façade 107 South Second Street 105 South Second Street (205 West Elm Street, Non-contributing) (206 East Elm Street, outside boundary) (107 South Third Street, outside boundary)
1915-1930	201 East Church Street 209 North Second Street (105 South Third Street, outside boundary) Courthouse
1931-1945	100 East Elm Street

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204 West Elm Street  
206 West Elm Street

1880-1900: According to the earliest Sanborn Insurance Map for Ozark (1900), 120 North Second Avenue began as a tin shop, as well as a photography studio. It was a bakery from the late 1920s through the 1940s, and then as Dr. McCormick's medical office during the 1950s and 1960s. Dr. McCormick was highly regarded in his practice and his family continues to reside in Ozark. This building is the only structure on this west block of the square historically intact.

The building at 101/103 East Church Street was built 1897 and was the first three-story brick building constructed in Ozark. The first floor corner building was constructed to house the Bank of Ozark, operated by a prominent Ozark native, Jeff Breazeale, the building's builder and original owner. The third floor was financed and leased for one hundred years by the Masonic Temple. A Mason's emblem of carved limestone marks the building façade at the third-floor level. The second floor housed the first telephone office, and the rear section was the Clark Opera House.

The oldest building on the square is at 101 West Church Street (c. 1882) and served the expansion of the Robertson Brothers store, also the oldest retail store in Ozark (Figure 12). It moved here from its original location on the south side of the courthouse square. Notably, this business expansion came the year they started construction of the railroad to Ozark and on to Chadwick. The Robertson Brothers store quickly expanded next door into a one-story brick masonry building and called this The Old Reliable (c. 1905). This was still not adequate for the successful merchants, however, as they soon consumed the single-story buildings between their original two-story at 101 West Church and the three-story building at 109 West Church (seen in Figure 12) to construct the two-story brick masonry building with three storefronts extant today (Figures 13, 14, 15, and 16).

On the corner of North Second and West Church streets on the north side of the square, the three-story building at 109 West Church was constructed in 1905 to serve as a drug store on the retail level while the upper floor served as doctors' clinic and related offices.

The contributing brick masonry buildings on the west side of the square were constructed between circa 1880 and 1910. The second location of the first bank in Christian County was at 101/103 South Second Street; established in 1886 it operated successfully in this location until it was liquidated in 1936 (Williams 1988:160). It was the location of other businesses such as H.F. Davis Drug Store, Ozarks Drugs Co., and the Ozark Sanitarium occupied the second floor (Figures 3 and 4). The building's fanciful façade was sacrificed when it was unified with adjacent buildings during the rebuilding following a devastating fire on the west side in circa 1909-1910 (Figures 5 and 6). The buildings at 105 and 107 were a total loss while the large building at 109/111 retained much of its outer walls and portions of its upper façade wall (Figures 5, 6 and 7). The buildings at 105 and 107 South Second were constructed circa 1910 when the facades of 101/103 to the left and 109/111 on the right were unified with the yellow brick façade present today (Figure 7 and 8). The large building at 109/111 South Second served as a hardware store from its initial construction in circa 1900 and by 1914 had the first freight elevator in Ozark (Figure 9). The buildings at 113 and 115/117 North Second Street were undamaged by the circa 1909/1910 fire (Figure 6); 113 was built in 1906 as a drug store, and the large building at 115/117 was a

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mercantile until the late 1920s when the Central Hotel, located to the north on the corner of North Second and West Church streets, burned and relocated in the 115/117 building (the original Central Hotel can be seen in Figures 1, 2, and 16).

There are three extant church buildings within the square community, one lies just outside the district boundaries at 206 East Elm, but based on its appearance and its commanding location on a hill rising above the square, it continues to impact the historic quality and character of the courthouse district. The Methodist church located at 202 East Church was built in circa 1914, although the organization had a church on this site since circa 1870s. The church design is nearly identical to the 1909 Disciples of Christ Christian Church located one block south (Figures 27 and 28). The Methodist building, however, was divested of its tower sometime after it was vacated by the church circa 1930. The Baptist Church located at 201 East Church Street was built in 1919. This massive building is an important architectural anchor to the courthouse square (Figure 26). It represents one of three remaining downtown churches, its construction contemporaneous with the other three extant religious structures, the Methodist Church building (now Christian County Museum) located across the street, and the (Disciples of Christ Christian Church) church building one block south. This religious structure with its sheer size and unique detailing is indicative of the religious devotion common of rural natives of the Ozarks geographical region. Located at 209 North Second Street is an excellent representative of the real success of the automobile after the great road building era during the 1920s. This commercial/warehouse style building is typical of the early automobile sales and service operations that became more important after road improvement legislation of the 1920s.

The two one-part commercial brick masonry buildings located outside the west boundary at 105 and 107 Third Street are representative of the increased agricultural pursuits of the teens and twenties. The building at 107 was used as an implement warehouse around 1914, according to the 1914 Sanborn Insurance map, but during the 1920s and 1930s the building at 105 was constructed in 1928 (Williams 1988: 117) adjacent and both buildings housed produce companies (Sanborn 1930)

Although the small two-story building at 204 West Elm awkwardly abuts a modern structure on its east elevation, its location at one of two entrances to the square contributes to the historic streetscape of the downtown. Its brick masonry construction, multi-storied façade and storefront maintain the feel of the historic commercial building style of courthouse square.

The large two-story “old hospital” building at 206 West Elm was built by a local doctor and pharmacist to serve as a medical clinic and hospital in the middle 1940s—just after the end of World War II—and served in that capacity for two decades. Its interior retains much of the original floor plan of its hospital design. It occupies a most prominent corner location at the Elm Street entrance to the square.

The Community Building at 100 East Elm was built with local labor, in the regional vernacular Ozark rock (giraffe) style, funded primarily through the Workers Progress Administration program. Its intended use was as a public community building and it continues to function in this capacity as a city-owned facility. This building is especially significant, representing the common struggles of rural America during the Depression Era, and the physical remains of the WPA relief efforts. It continues to serve the Ozark community by providing space for public functions and events, much as it has since its construction in 1934.

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### Politics and Government

Authority for the construction of county buildings was established in 1820 when the legislature set down laws requiring county courts to appoint commissioners who were responsible for selecting the site and building of the courthouse and jail. The county seat was to be surveyed and laid out into blocks, and then proceeds from the sale of individual lots could be used to finance the construction (Ohman 1983:41).

Ohman (Ohman 1983:28-29) describes the variety and histories of layouts in courthouse squares existing throughout Missouri. According to Ohman, geographer Edward T. Price observed a number of distinct patterns in the designs of central courthouse square throughout the states of the upland South which includes Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri (he also compared plans from portions of Georgia and Texas). Based on Price's nomenclature, the Christian County courthouse layout is in a Four-block square, which is a composite of the early Lancaster square (named for the Pennsylvania town where it was first occurred in 1739) and the Shelbyville—so named for a design first found in Tennessee between 1810 and 1812, and the most common design used in Missouri courthouse squares. This design contains streets intersecting at all four corners as well as in the center of each block (Ohman 1983:29, 33-34). The original city plat map of Ozark, surveyed by Hosea Paul, indicates a full four-block plan, however the earliest Sanborn Insurance map from 1900 shows that openings on the west side are partially filled in with only a narrow opening remaining, which is shown completely filled in by the subsequent Sanborn map of 1906; the opening on the east side of the square also was filled in sometime between 1906 and the time of the 1914 Sanborn map. The street openings on the north and south sides of the square have been maintained throughout history, originally called Main Street (currently, north and south First Street).

According to Ohman (1983:36), most Missouri courthouse squares are truly square in plan, and between 200 and 300 feet along each side. Although Ohman writes that the Christian County square is one of only five in Missouri with a courtyard measuring more than 300 feet, Sanborn Insurance maps and county assessor records indicate that it measures less, between 220 and 275 feet.

The current courthouse building represents the county's third. The first was a frame structure built in 1860 on a regular lot on the northeast side. It was destroyed by an arsonist's fire in 1865. A two-story brick structure was built on the courthouse lawn circa 1868-1870, separated from the brick jail building that occupied the southwest corner of the courthouse lawn (Christian County Centennial, Inc. 1959: 23; Collier 1966: 20; Ingenthron and Hartman 1988: 224-226; Sanborn maps 1900, 1906, 1914). The courthouse was razed circa 1913 to accommodate planned construction of the new courthouse, the jail remained standing until 1929 (Ingenthron and Hartman 1988: 231; Sanborn 1914). The actual metal cells were hoisted to the third floor jail in the new courthouse, where they remain (Williams 1988:116).

The current courthouse building was designed in 1913 by Henry H. Hohenschild, a self-taught architect from St. Louis. Hohenschild was a prolific courthouse designer in Missouri between 1883 and 1926 having designed and built 10 courthouses, remodeled one, and drafted proposals for five others (Ohman 1983:123). The Christian County Courthouse is in the style Ohman calls Turn-of-the-Century Classicism, which became popular in courthouse design in Missouri after the style was celebrated at the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago. No fewer than twenty-five of the thirty-seven courthouses built in

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Missouri between 1900 and 1928 reflected “classically inspired designs . . . [and] within this classically inspired group, fifteen courthouses incorporated features of the Second Renaissance Revival.” Ohman’s description of this stylistic mix could be utilized to describe the Christian County courthouse in that these “are often large buildings of three stores with horizontal emphasis; the ground floors feature large, smooth, stone blocks . . . , [t]he window trim, or surround, ordinarily changes from floor to floor . . . , [and] groupings of engaged columns (partly attached to the wall) . . . are often found above the ground floor” (1983: 83) and, as exhibited in the Christian County building, this style often incorporated columns, balustrades and/or parapets that hide a flat roof, the use of light stone or brick, an even cornice line.

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Christian County, Missouri**

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- Figure 1. West side of square, Second & Church streets, viewing WSW, (photo c. 1890s).
- Figure 2. West side of square viewing SSW (109/111,113, & 115/117 Second Street in center), (photo c. 1906).
- Figure 3. West Side of Square viewing NW, 101-103 Second Street on left, (photo c. 1900).
- Figure 4. 101-103 South Second Street. Original Christian County Bank building, (photo c. 1900).
- Figure 5. West side square viewing WNW, c. 1909-1910 fire destroyed 105 & 107 and gutted 109/111 Second Street (photo c. 1910).
- Figure 6. West side of square viewing SW, after c. 1909-1910 fire destroyed 105 & 107 and gutted 109/111 Second Street (photo c. 1910).
- Figure 7. West side square (101-111 South Second Street) viewing WNW with new unified façade constructed after fire c. 1909-1910 (113 & 115/117 North Second Street at far right).
- Figure 8. 105 & 107 South Second Street, West Side of Square, before rehab c. 1990s.
- Figure 9. West side square, 109-111 South Second Street (photo c. 1910-1920).
- Figure 10. 113 and 115/117 North Second Street viewing WSW, (photo c. 1910).
- Figure 11. 115-117 North Second Street viewing WNW, (Before rehab, c. 1990s).
- Figure 12. Northwest side of square viewing NNW, 101-105 West Church Street (photo c. 1905).
- Figure 13. Northwest side of square viewing NNW, 101-105 West Church Street (photo c. 1909).
- Figure 14. Northwest side of square viewing NNE, courthouse at right, (photo c. 1920).
- Figure 15. North side of square viewing NE, c. 1940s.
- Figure 16. North side of square viewing NE, c. 1965.
- Figure 17. North side of square (Church Street) viewing W, Bank of Ozark/Masonic building at right center (photo c. 1900).
- Figure 18. Masonic/Bank of Ozark building, north side of square, 101/103 East Church viewing NNE, (photo c. 1900).
- Figure 19. Storefront detail of Masonic/Bank of Ozark building, 101/103 East Church (photo c. 1900).
- Figure 20. Northeast side of square viewing NW, 101-103 & 127 East Church Street before rehab, c. 2000.
- Figure 21. Restored storefront detail, 101-103 East Church (photo c. 2004).
- Figure 22. Panoramic image of courthouse north & west sides of square, viewing NW (photo c. 1920).
- Figure 23. Rendering of courthouse building c. 1913.
- Figure 23. Courthouse viewing SW, prior to door & window replacements (photo c. 1960s).
- Figure 25. Baptist Church, 201 East Church Street, fire damaged viewing NE (photo c. 1920-1930).
- Figure 26. Baptist Church building, 201 East Church Street viewing NE (photo c. 1960s).
- Figure 27. Methodist Church, 202 East Church Street viewing S, (photo c. 1914).
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- Figure 29. East side of square viewing NE, (photo c. 1960s).

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Figure 1. West side of square, Second & Church streets, viewing WSW, (photo c. 1890s).

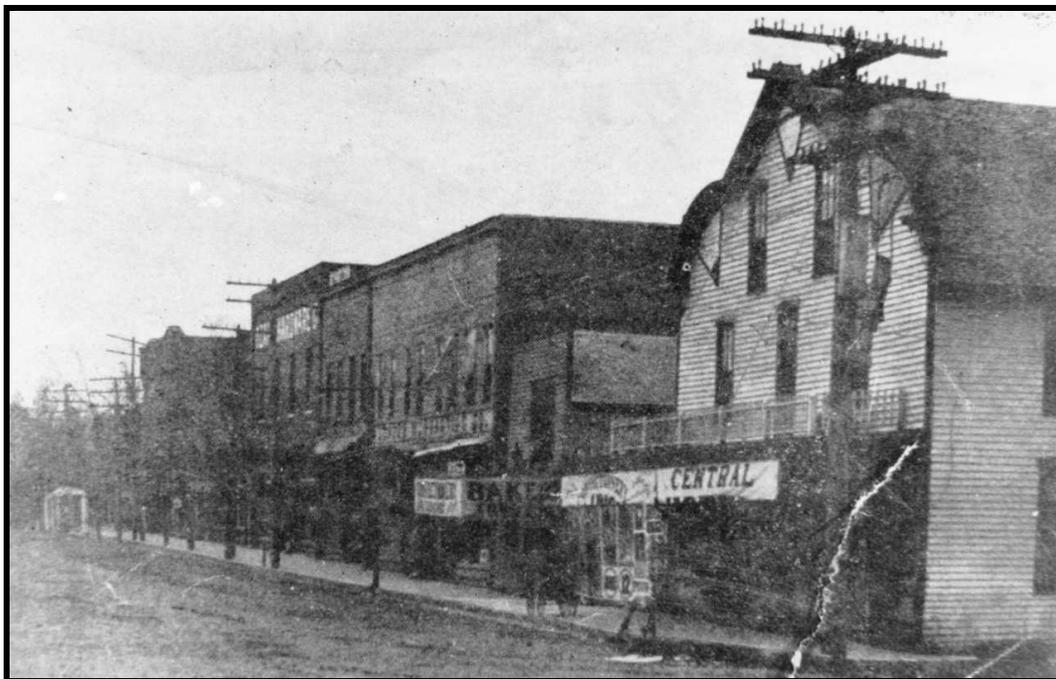


Figure 2. West side of square viewing SSW, c. 1906 (109/111,113, & 115/117 Second Street in center).

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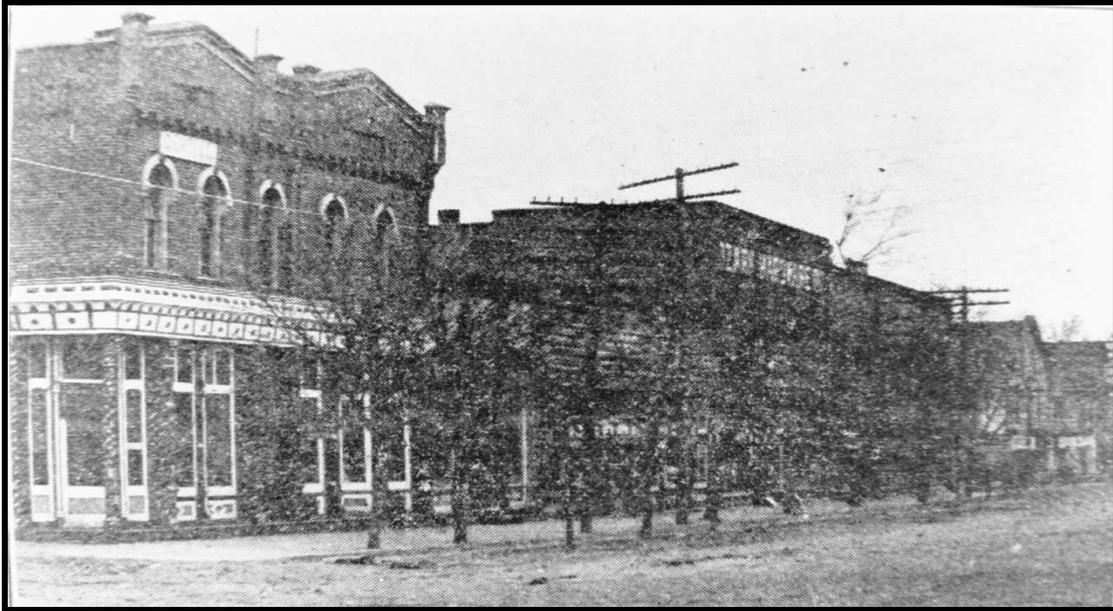


Figure 3. West Side of Square viewing NW, 101-103 Second Street on left, (photo c. 1900).

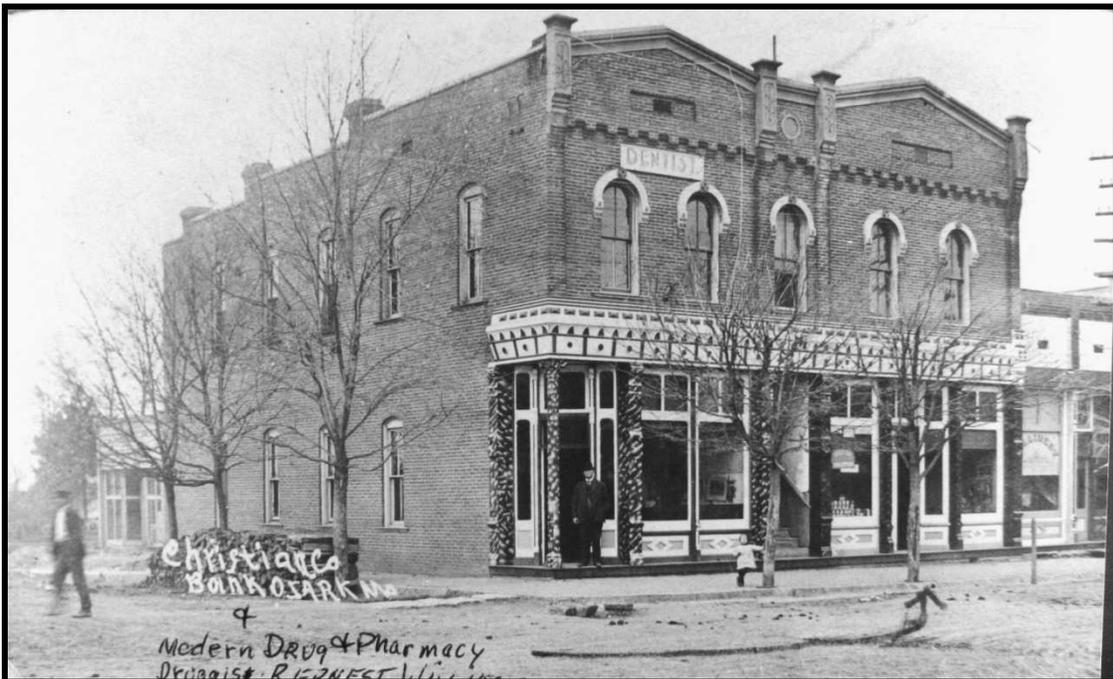


Figure 4. 101-103 South Second Street. Original Christian County Bank building, (photo c. 1900).

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Figure 5. West side square viewing WNW, c. 1909-1910 fire destroyed 105 & 107,  
And gutted 109/111 Second Street (photo c. 1910).



Figure 6. West side of square viewing SW, after c. 1909-1910 fire destroyed  
105 & 107 and gutted 109/111 Second Street (photo c. 1910).

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Figure 7. West side square (101-111 South Second Street) viewing WNW with new unified façade constructed after fire c. 1909-1910 (113 & 115/117 North Second Street at far right) (photo c. 1910).



Figure 8. 105 & 107 South Second Street, West Side of Square, before rehab c.

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1990s.

Figure 9. West side square, 109-111 South Second Street (photo c. 1910-1920)



Figure 10. 113 and 115/117 North Second Street viewing WSW, (photo c. 1910).

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Figure 11. 115-117 North Second Street viewing WNW, (Before rehab, c. 1990s).



Figure 12. Northwest side of square viewing NNW, 101-105 West Church Street (photo c. 1905)

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Figure 13. Northwest side of square viewing NNW, 101-105 West Church Street (photo c. 1909)



Figure 14. Northwest side of square viewing NNE, courthouse at right, (photo c. 1920).

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Figure 15. North side of square viewing NE, c. 1940s.



Figure 16. North side of square viewing NE, c. 1965.

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Figure 17. North side of square (Church Street) viewing W, Bank of Ozark/Masonic building at right center (photo c. 1900).

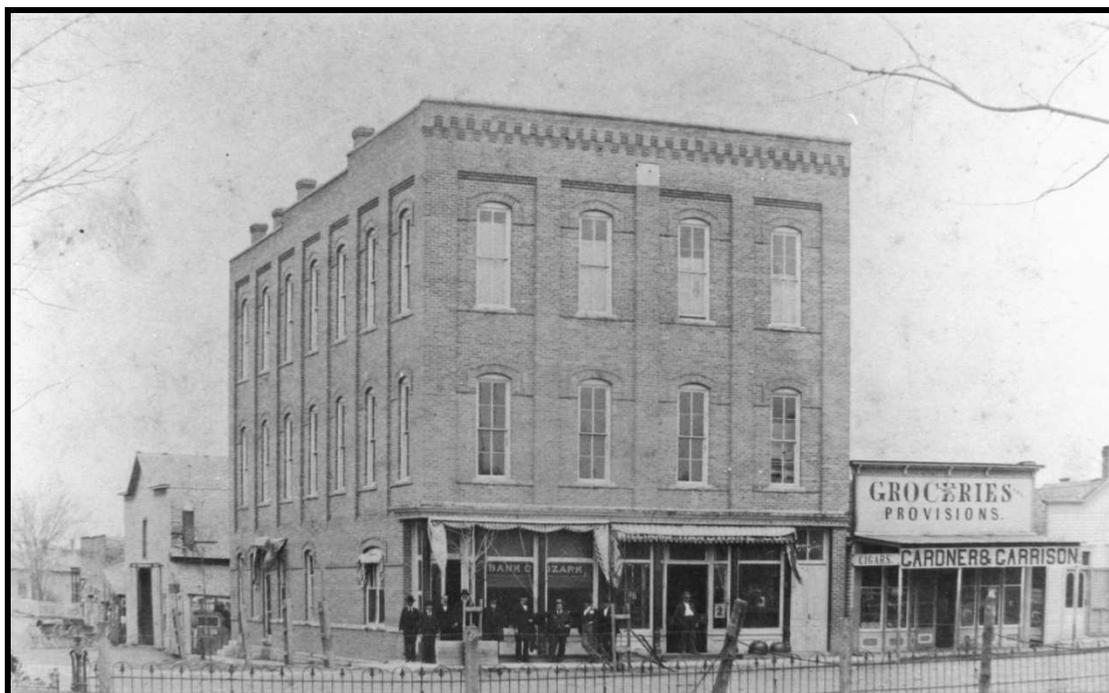


Figure 18. Masonic/Bank of Ozark building, north side of square, 101/103 East Church viewing NNE, (photo c. 1900).

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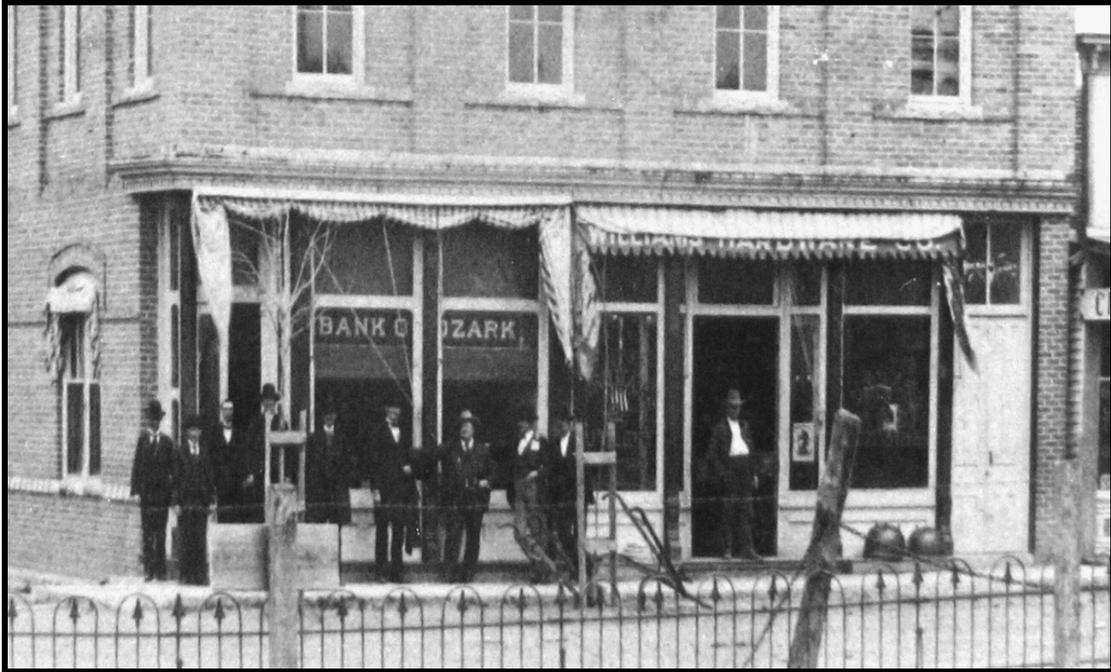


Figure 19. Storefront detail of Masonic/Bank of Ozark building, 101/103 East Church (photo c. 1900).



Figure 20. Northeast side of square viewing NW, 101-103 & 127 East Church Street before rehab, c. 2000.

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Figure 21. Restored storefront detail, 101-103 East Church (photo c. 2004).

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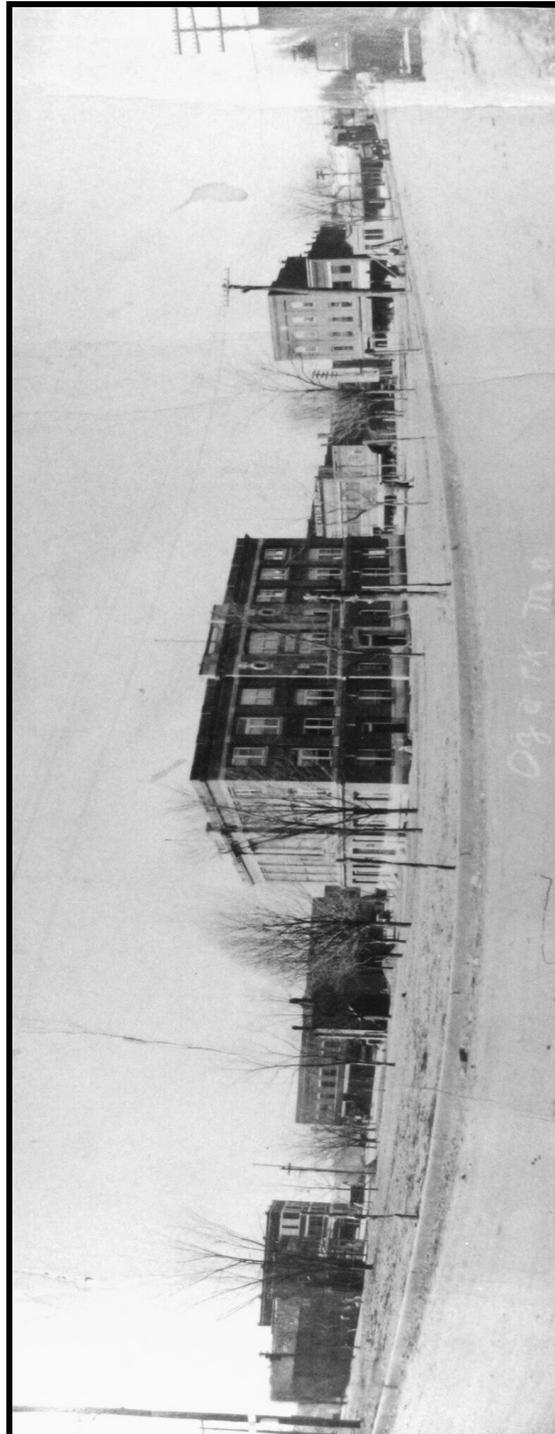


Figure 22. Panoramic image of courthouse north & west sides of square, viewing NW (photo c. 1920).

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Figure 23. Rendering of courthouse building c. 1913.



Figure 24. Courthouse viewing SW, prior to door & window replacements (photo c. 1960s).

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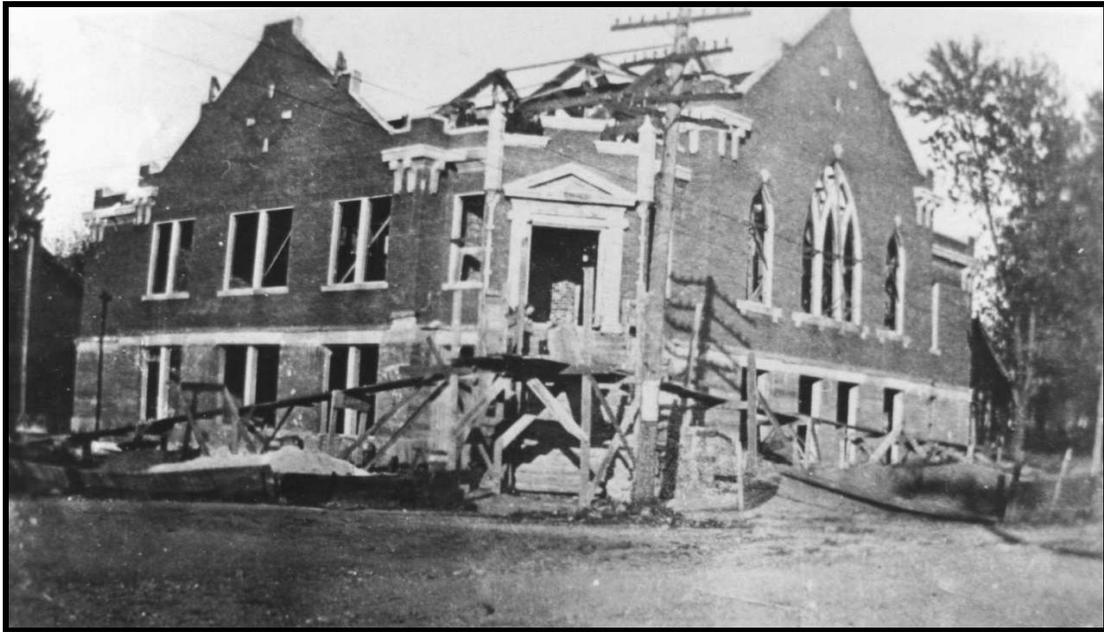


Figure 25. Baptist Church, 201 East Church Street, fire damaged viewing NE (photo c. 1937).



Figure 26. Baptist Church building, 201 East Church Street viewing NE (photo c. 1960s).

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Figure 27. Methodist Church, 202 East Church Street viewing S, (photo c. 1914).

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Figure 28. Disciples of Christ Christian Church, 206 East Elm (photo c. 1909).



Figure 29. East side of square viewing NE, c. 1960s.

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### **Verbal Boundary Description**

The streets that define the boundary of the Ozark Courthouse Square proposed historic district are Church Street on the north, Elm Street on the south, Second Avenue on the east, and Second Street on the west. The Christian County Courthouse building occupies the center as defined by the intersecting streets. The boundary jogs to take in buildings not facing the courthouse, they are as follows: 209 Second Street is one-half block north of the square, 202 East Church Street is one-half block east of the square, 206 East Elm Street is one-half block east, and 204 West Elm is at the entrance to the square from Third Street. Also, the boundary takes in the east side of Third Street to include the highly visible rear elevations of the buildings on Second Street.

### **Boundary Justification**

Four intersecting streets—Church, Elm, Second Avenue, and Second Street—encircle the historic courthouse building and define the courthouse square, and buildings flanking the outer perimeter of these streets further define the square. However, the boundary extends to Third Avenue on the east to include additional buildings on Church and Elm streets; the west boundary extends to Third Street to include the rear elevations of the Second Street buildings. While buildings along the west side of the square face Second Street and the square proper, their rear elevations extend to Third Street (State Highway 14) which is the primary thoroughfare through the historic downtown area and the entrance to the square is from here, using both West Church and West Elm. The boundaries exclude buildings on the south side of the square (portions of Elm) and east side (Second Ave). While part of the historic commercial center, these buildings are either significantly altered historic buildings or modern construction.

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The following is true for all photographs:

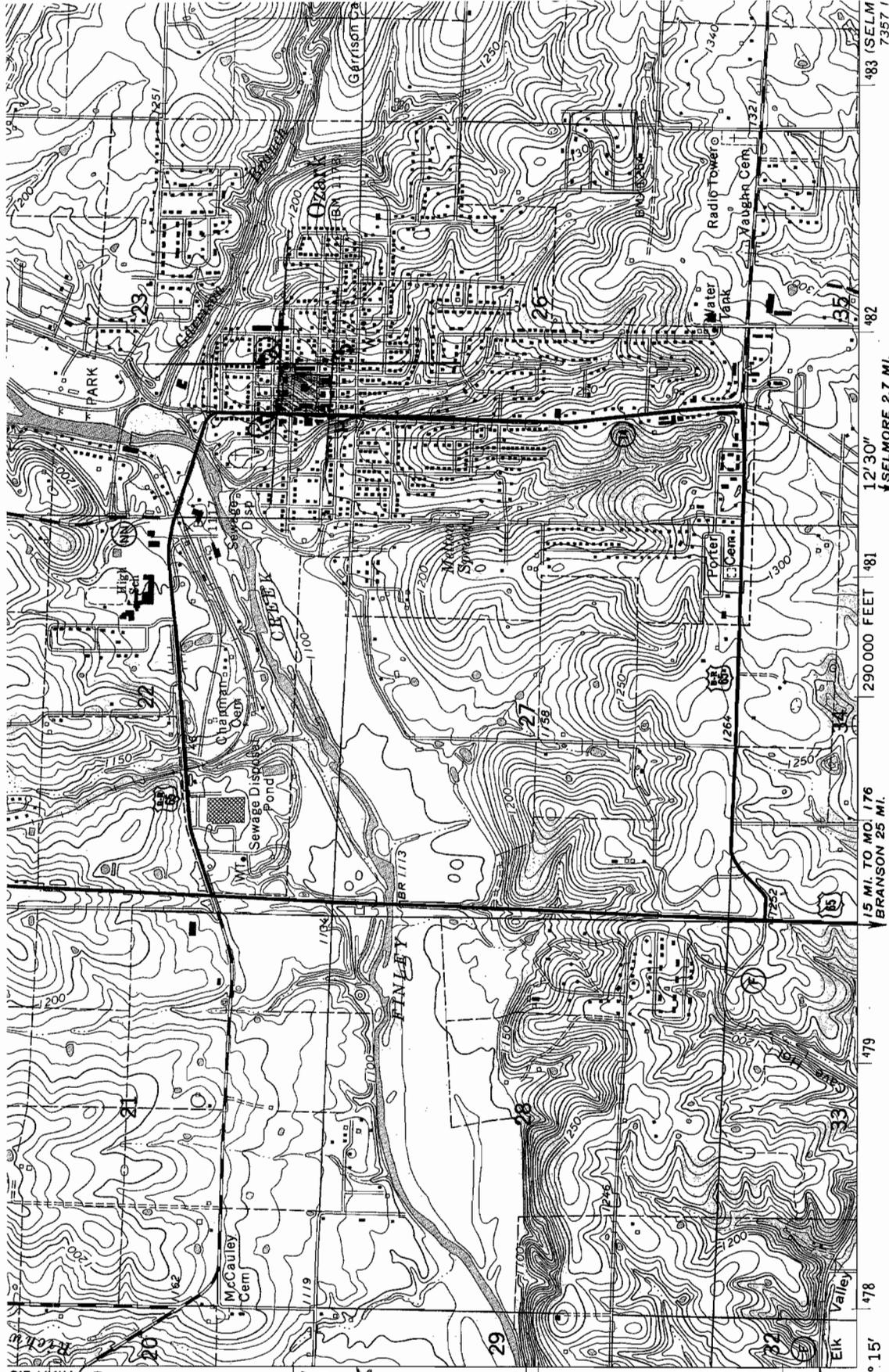
Ozark Courthouse Square Historic District  
Christian County, Missouri

Date: January 2008

Photographer: Katherine Dowdy

Negatives on file: Katherine Dowdy, Heritage Research Company, 115 East Church Street, Ozark, Missouri

1. Christian County Courthouse, looking southeast.
2. Second Street, looking northwest.
3. 101-103 Second St., looking west.
4. 105-107 Second St., looking west.
5. 109-111 Second St., looking west.
6. 113 Second St., looking west.
7. 113-117, 119, and 121 Second St., looking west northwest.
8. Northwest corner of square, looking northwest.
9. 209 Second Street, looking southwest.
10. 209 Second Street, looking southeast.
11. North side of square (101-109 W. Church & 101-201 E. Church), looking northeast.
12. 109 W. Church St., looking north.
13. 103-105 W. Church St., looking north.
14. 101 W. Church St., looking northwest.
15. 101 -109 W. Church St., looking northwest
16. 101-127 & 201 E. Church, looking northeast.
17. 101-127 E. Church St., looking northwest.
18. 101-127 E. Church St., looking northwest. 201 E. Church St., looking northeast.
19. 201 E. Church St., looking northwest.
20. 201 E. Church St., looking southeast.
21. 202 E. Church St., viewing southeast.
22. 120 N. Second Ave., looking east southeast.
23. 100 E. Elm St. looking southeast.
24. 100 E. Elm St., looking southwest.
25. 204 W. Elm St., looking south.
26. 206 W. Elm St., looking south.
27. 202-206 W. Elm, looking southwest.
28. 205 W. Elm St., looking northeast.
29. Rear elevations of 105-113 Second St., looking southeast.
30. 100 W. Elm St., looking southeast (outside district boundaries).
31. Second Ave., East side of square (outside district boundaries), looking northeast.
32. Southeast corner of square (outside district boundaries), looking southeast.
33. 206 E. Elm (outside district boundaries)
34. American Legion Fountain, on courthouse lawn, looking north northeast.



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Ozark Courthouse Square  
Historic District  
Christian County, MO  
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2) 15/481845/4097248  
3) 15/481847/4097061  
4) 15/481643/4097065  
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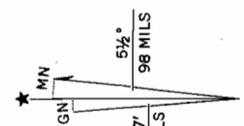
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1968. Field checked 1970

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum 10,000-foot grid based on Missouri coordinate system, central zone 1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue

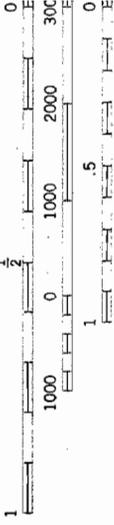
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1975. This information not field checked



UTM GRID AND 1975 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

12' 30" SELMORE 2.7 MI.

SCALE 1



CONTOUR INTEL  
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VEI

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATION  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER,  
AND DIVISION OF GEOLO  
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A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS





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DURANGO SPORT









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