

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECEIVED

FEB 3 1994

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: Old Bank of Fayetteville Building, Old

other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: 100 West Center Street

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Fayetteville

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Washington code: AR 143 zip code: 72701

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification
=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Cathryn A. Slaton

Signature of certifying official

1-18-94
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====
5. National Park Service Certification
=====

I, hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register

_____ See continuation sheet.

_____ determined eligible for the
National Register

_____ See continuation sheet.

_____ determined not eligible for the
National Register

_____ removed from the National Register

_____ other (explain): _____

Edron H. Beall

3/7/94

Entered in the
National Register

for Signature of Keeper

Date
of Action

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic: Commerce

Sub: Financial institution

Current : Commerce

Sub: Business

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7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification:

Queen Anne
Romanesque

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation Limestone roof Asphalt
walls Brick other Terra Cotta
Limestone

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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8. Statement of Significance

=====

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1889

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.
X See continuation sheet.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

Summary

The Old Bank of Fayetteville at 100 West Center Street is a three-story brick and stone commercial building with a full basement that was constructed in 1889 with both Queen Anne and Romanesque Revival style influences. In 1960, the building suffered a complete renovation consisting of a gold aluminum screen facade bolted over the exterior. Fortunately, the historic facade was restored in 1993 following a three-year project. During the recent rehabilitation project, the interior has been almost completely refitted for modern office use, though it retains some of the original door and window moldings as well as two of the original cast-iron bank vaults.

Elaboration

Located at 100 West Center Street at the northwest corner of the town square, the Old Bank of Fayetteville was constructed in 1889 as a three-story brick and stone commercial building with a full basement that features both Queen Anne and Romanesque style influences. The rectangular plan building has a bevelled corner and is covered by a sloped asphalt roof behind a somewhat crenelated brick parapet. There are no extant chimneys.

The first story of the building, as well as the exposed basement level on the eastern elevation, is constructed of rough-faced, cut limestone, while the upper two stories are finished with red brick. Decorative terra cotta panels are used between floors, and a substantial cornice and frieze, which is decorated with a dentil course and cast-iron rosettes, projects above the third-story windows. The bevelled corner features a new single-leaf door with a transom and one sidelight. Several alterations have occurred to this entrance over the years, and at some point - probably after the turn of the century - a transom-like window above the entrance was filled with brick and a gable-roof porch with stone columns added. This porch was altered c. 1931 with the addition of a large wrap-around sign that completely obscured the gable roof. Both the roof and columns were removed during the 1960 renovation. Today, the brick-filled window opening remains enclosed.

The southern elevation of the building is divided symmetrically into four bays of paired windows. The first-story now contains a recessed entrance behind the central cut-limestone support. Decorative cast-iron pilasters delineate the two flanking bays. The second-story windows contain a limestone sill, while the third-story windows add a massive limestone lintel. Originally, these windows consisted of wood-frame, two-over-two double-hung windows with integrated three-pane transoms. During the 1990-1993 rehabilitation, all of the exterior windows, which had badly deteriorated, were replaced with aluminum-frame windows that

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unfortunately do not replicate the original sash configuration¹. Still, the overall appearance and distinctive details of the building remain.

The eastern elevation is defined by ten bays of single windows with a staircase bay between the sixth and seventh bays to the northern end. This elevation is dominated by a substantial semi-circular arched window just above the first story in the staircase bay with "A.D. 1889" inscribed in the limestone keystone (the arch itself is composed of brick). The effect of this arch is heightened by the cut-limestone pilasters (which, like the southern elevation pilasters, are actual structural members) it rests upon. These pilasters begin at the basement level which is partially exposed on this elevation. A single-leaf entry is placed at the base of this arched window, while the actual staircase now begins at bay to the north of the arched window. As in the southern elevation, cast-iron pilasters are alternated between the limestone pilasters.

A total of ten windows on the second and third stories fenestrate the stuccoed, and partially obscured, northern elevation.

As alluded to previously, the exterior was completely renovated in 1960. The first-story stone and cast-iron pilasters were covered with Portland cement plaster. Gold aluminum panels were attached to the upper stories of the exterior facade, including the upper portion of the first floor, and the bevelled corner was squared. The interior was likewise modernized.

From 1990-1993, the building was rehabilitated as a phased project, and the exterior was returned to its historic appearance, with the exception of the aforementioned aluminum-frame windows. As the interior was gutted in a 1985 restoration attempt, little original detail remains; however, the historic door and window moldings were reproduced (some of the originals still exist in the building) and are used throughout the building. The interior does feature two original cast-iron bank vaults with the basement vault displaying a triangular pediment with exceptional decorative detailing.

¹At present, the owners intend return to the wood-frame, original sash configuration windows on the second and third stories so as to conform to the *Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*.

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Section number 8 Page 1

Summary

The Old Bank of Fayetteville at 100 West Center Street is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance as the best example in Fayetteville of a three-story commercial building that reflects the decorative detailing of both the Queen Anne and the Romanesque Revival styles of architecture.

Elaboration

In 1888, the Bank of Fayetteville was chartered with Judge Lafayette Gregg as president, Dr. W. B. Welch as vice president, and Mac Devins as the cashier. The new bank opened for business in the Young Building on the west side of the square, but at the same time acquired the lot on the northwest corner of the square and began construction on a new three-story building. Upon completion of the new facility in 1889, all of the bank's offices were moved into the new structure. The year 1889 also marked the passage of Fayetteville's first city ordinance, which outlawed prostitution (there is, however, no known record of this activity at 100 West Center Street). In 1890, the Bank of Fayetteville merged with the McIlroy financial interest and continued to operate from 100 West Center Street with W. B. Welch as president. McIlroy soon withdrew all interests from the Bank of Fayetteville, and H. L. Gregg succeeded Welch as president of the bank.

The next major change in the organization occurred in 1905 when the bank became nationalized. Three years later the National Bank of Fayetteville merged with First National Bank, which was formed in 1904, and operations were continued at 100 West Center Street under the name of the First National Bank. Relative stability reigned until 1931 when the bank merged with the Citizens Bank and moved to Block Street. The vacant building was purchased by Alcuin Pitt "Cap" Eason, who owned the Eason and Co. insurance company and had previously rented office space in the 100 West Center Street Building.

In 1953, Cap Eason's son, Al, formed the First Federal Savings and Loan and operated out of a portion of the first floor. This institution grew rapidly and by 1960 had expanded to occupy most of the building. In that year, a complete and drastic renovation was inflicted upon the historic structure. As a fitting harbinger of the architectural decadence of that era, a gold aluminum-screen monolith was unthoughtfully bolted to the exterior facade. Interior revisions were on par with the exterior. These changes apparently did not affect public perception for the First Federal Savings and Loan continued to prosper, and in 1974 the financial institution constructed a new seven-story building to the west of Old Bank of Fayetteville Building. The older structure was now leased for various retail, including a dress shop, offices, and a part-time

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art studio.

The building at 100 West Center Street was sold in 1985 to Milton Reghetti, an attorney from California who started removal of the aluminum facade and began gutting the interior. Reghetti declared bankruptcy three years later, and the Eason family initiated a two-year legal battle to regain title. On the Old Bank of Fayetteville Building's 100th anniversary, the City of Fayetteville, under substantial public pressure, started condemnation proceedings on the abandoned eyesore. In spite of the public criticism, the city government delayed the third and final reading of the condemnation for over nine months to allow Al Eason time to regain the title. In 1990, Eason began accepting bids for the demolition of the structure and the leveling for a parking lot. Fortunately however, the dilapidated building, which had been exposed to the weather for five years, was purchased by the architect Bob H. Kelly and his wife Linda, who completed a three year phased rehabilitation project in 1993.

The Old Bank of Fayetteville is architecturally significant in Fayetteville as the best example of a nineteenth century commercial building that exhibits influences from both the Queen Anne and Romanesque Revival styles of architecture. Queen Anne details are found primarily in the decorative terra cotta panels between floors, the cast-iron rosettes, and the interior moldings. The Romanesque Revival influence is evident in the substantial use of cut limestone on the first story and a dominating two-story semi-circular arch on the eastern elevation. This blend of architectural styles distinguishes the Old Bank of Fayetteville Building from other downtown commercial buildings. For instance, its nearest counterpart in both size and style, the 1886 two-story Guisinger Building (NR 9/20/84) at the southeast corner of the square, reflects the more common, though excellently executed, commercial adaptation of the Italianate style. For these reasons, the Old Bank of Fayetteville is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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X See continuation sheet.

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:

- X State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>395480</u>	<u>3991330</u>	B	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
C	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	D	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

 See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

A part of Lots Numbered Five (5) and Six (6) in Block Number Seventeen (17) as designated upon the plat of the Town of Fayetteville, in Washington County, Arkansas, bounded and described as follows, to-wit: Beginning at the Southeast corner of said Block 17, and running, thence West Fifty-five (55) feet; thence North one hundred eight (108) feet; thence East Fifty-five (55) feet; thence South one hundred eight (108) feet to the place of beginning.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all of the property historically associated with this resource that retains its integrity.

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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Bibliography

Information submitted by Bob H. Kelly, AIA, as part of Historic Preservation Certification Application, June 1993 based upon the following sources:

Brown, Kent R. *Fayetteville: A Pictorial History*. Norfolk, Virginia: Donning Co., 1982.

Campbell, William S. *One Hundred Years of Fayetteville, 1828-1928*. Washington County Historical Society, 1977.

Interview with Al Eason (date not given).

Interview with John Lewis, President of Bank of Fayetteville and grandson of original banker, 1985.

Sutherland, Cyrus. *Fayetteville's History in Architecture*. Downtown Fayetteville Unlimited, 1980.

The University of Arkansas Annuals: *The Cardinal*, 1905-1915; *The Razorback*, 1916-1991.

11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: Patrick Zollner, National Register Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 01/12/94

Street & Number: 323 Center, 1600 Tower Bldg. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Bank of Fayetteville Building, Old

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Washington

DATE RECEIVED: 2/03/94 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/15/94
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/03/94 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/20/94
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 94000144

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 3/7/94 DATE Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

☐ count ☐ resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

☐ historic ☐ current

DESCRIPTION

☐ architectural classification

☐ materials

☐ descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period **Areas of Significance--Check and justify below**

Specific dates **Builder/Architect**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

☐ summary paragraph

☐ completeness

☐ clarity

☐ applicable criteria

☐ justification of areas checked

☐ relating significance to the resource

☐ context

☐ relationship of integrity to significance

☐ justification of exception

☐ other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

☐ acreage

☐ verbal boundary description

☐ UTM's

☐ boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

☐ sketch maps ☐ USGS maps ☐ photographs ☐ presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Phone _____

Signed _____

Date _____

EASON & CO., INC.
INSURANCE
ESTD 1888

BANK

folio
JEWELRY, ARTS

HOURS:
MONDAY - FRIDAY
10:00 - 5:00
SATURDAY
10:00 - 5:00

folio

Old Bank of Fayetteville Bldg.
Washington Co., Arkansas
Photograph by Patrick Zollner
October 1993
Negative on file at AHPP
View of front entrance from the southeast



Old Bank of Fayetteville Bldg.
Washington Co., Arkansas
Photograph by Patrick Zollner
October 1993
Negative on file at AHPP
View from the northeast



Old Bank of Fayetteville Bldg.
Washington Co., Arkansas
Photograph by Patrick Zollner
October 1993
Negative on file at AHPP
View from the southwest



Old Bank of Fayetteville Bldg.
Washington Co., Arkansas
Photograph by Patrick Zollner
October 1993
Negative on file at AHP
View from the southeast



FIRST NATIONAL BANK

HALL'S SAFE & LOCK CO.

CINCINNATI & ST. LOUIS

Old Bank of Fayetteville Bldg.

Washington Co., Arkansas

Photographed by Patrick Zollner

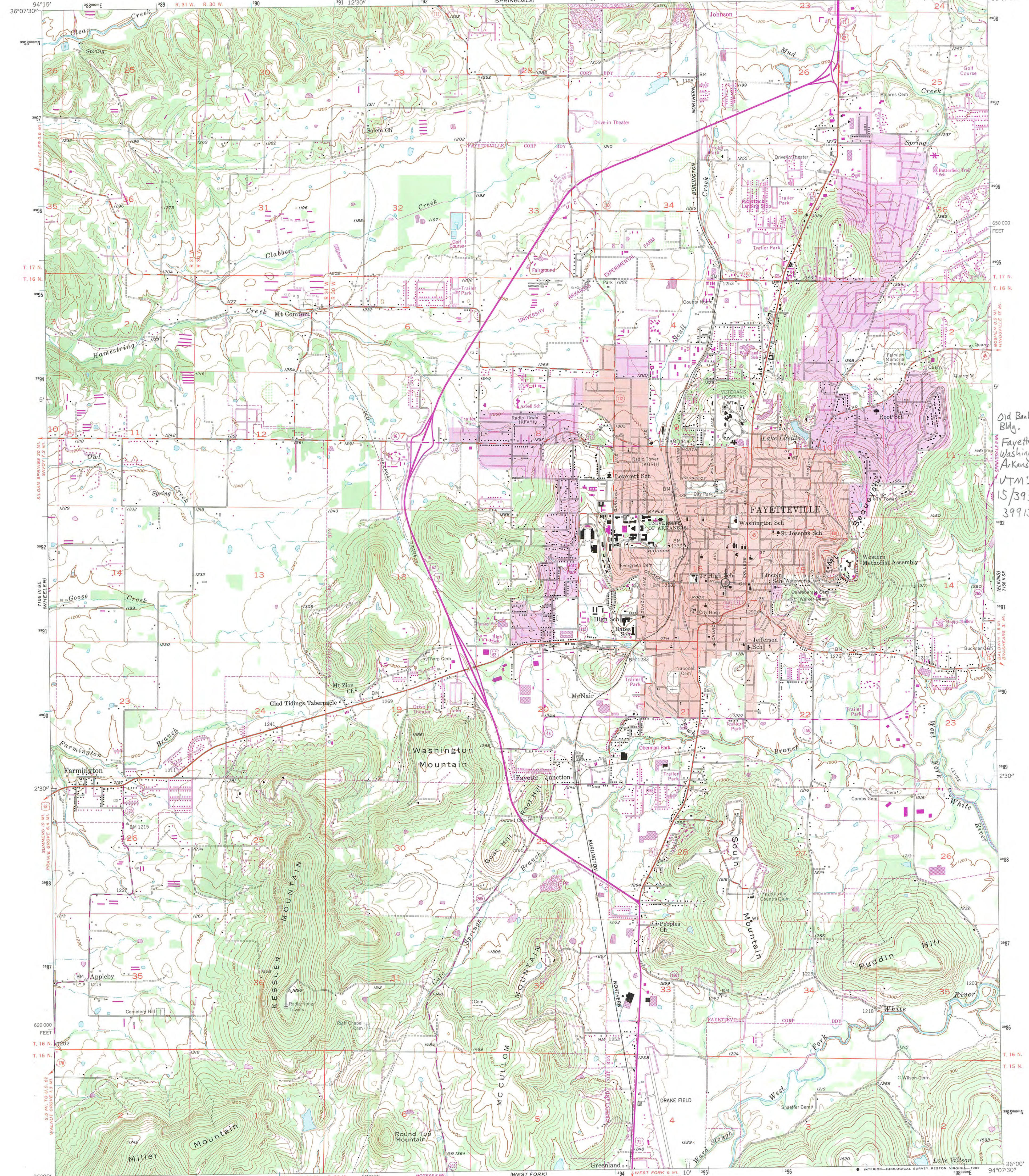
October 1993

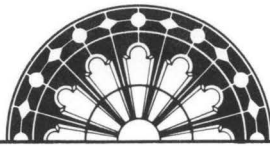
Negative on file at AHPP

View of interior vault in basement



Old Bank of Fayetteville Bldg.
Washington Co., Arkansas
Photograph by Patrick Zolher
October 1993
Negative on file at AHPP
View of arch on eastern elevation





ARKANSAS
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
PROGRAM

RECEIVED

FEB 3 1994

NATIONAL
REGISTER

January 19, 1994

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
800 North Capitol Street, Suite 250
Washington, DC 20002

RE: Old Bank of Fayetteville Building
Fayetteville, Washington County

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination of the above referenced property. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathy Buford Slater
State Historic Preservation Officer

CBS:kg

Enclosures

