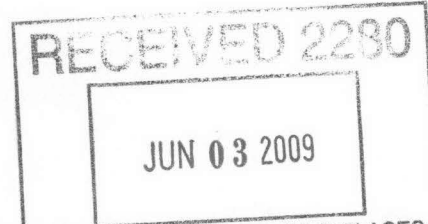


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

513



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 Federal Reserve Bank Building Additional Documentation and Boundary Increase

other names/site number Site #PU0202-PU0203

2. Location

street & number 123 West 3rd Street

not for publication

city or town Little Rock

vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Pulaski code 119 zip code 72201

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 for 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.)

Debbie Matthes
Signature of certifying official/Title

5/13/09
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 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:

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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall

7.15.09

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

- private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal

- building(s), district, site, structure, object

Contributing Noncontributing

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total. Values: 1, 0, 0, 0, 1.

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Structures in Arkansas Represented by the Charles L. Thompson Design Collection - A Thematic Group

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/financial institution

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVAL/Classical Revival MODERN MOVEMENT/Art Deco

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE walls STONE BRICK roof ASPHALT other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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BACKGROUND

The Federal Reserve Bank Building was originally listed in the National Register of Historic Places on October 23, 1986. When the building was listed, the bank's annex, which was built in 1929 and integrated into the building in 1959, was treated as a separate building and not included in the nomination. As a result, the boundary for the Federal Reserve Bank Building, as delineated in the original nomination, cuts the building in half.

The purpose of this additional documentation is to 1) expand the boundary so that the bank's annex is included in the nomination boundary, 2) add Criterion A to the nomination to reflect the building's importance in Little Rock's economic history, and 3) extend the period of significance up to 1959.

SUMMARY

The Federal Reserve Bank Building is a monumental three-story stone building located in the heart of downtown Little Rock. Built out of concrete and stone, the building was designed by the Little Rock architecture firm of Thompson and Harding in the Classical Revival style and built in 1924. The main facades of the building are the north and west façades, which contain large windows and engaged pilasters. The south and east façades of the 1924 building are party walls with adjacent buildings or were originally covered by other buildings.

The building's annex was built in 1929 in a restrained mode of the Art Deco style as a commercial and office building. However, in 1959, the building was integrated into the Federal Reserve Bank Building and renovated to be the building's annex. Unlike the original 1924 building, the annex is fenestrated with smaller windows. The first floor, which was originally retail space, was converted in 1959 into a secure driveway and parking for the bank's use.

ELABORATION

The Federal Reserve Bank Building is a monumental three-story stone building located in the heart of downtown Little Rock at 123 W. 3rd Street. Built out of concrete and stone, the building was designed by the Little Rock architecture firm of Thompson and Harding in the Classical Revival style and built in 1924. The main facades of the building are the north and west façades, which contain large windows and engaged pilasters on the first and second floors. The first and second floors are separated from the third floor by a projecting cornice, and the third floor is fenestrated by four-paned windows. The south and east façades of the 1924 building are party walls with adjacent buildings or were originally covered by other buildings. As a result, they are strictly utilitarian construction with few window openings.

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The building's annex, historically known as the Gem Building, was built in 1929 in a restrained mode of the Art Deco style as a commercial and office building. The majority of the building employs brick construction, except for the cornice, entrance bay, and engaged pilasters, which are stone construction. The Art Deco detailing is especially apparent on the building's cornice, which employs a modified chevron design, and in the lintel over the first floor openings, which is decorated with a repeating semi-circle pattern. However, in 1959, the building was integrated into the Federal Reserve Bank Building and renovated to be the building's annex. Unlike the original 1924 building, the annex is fenestrated with smaller windows, which were reopened between 1984 and 1991 after being bricked up. The first floor, which was originally retail space, was converted in 1959 into a secure driveway and parking area for the bank's use.

Front/North Façade

The front façade of the 1924 building is oriented around the main central entrance. The main entrance of the building is comprised of a pair of bronze three-panel doors with a bullseye design in each panel. The doors are topped by a band of four transom windows and the entrance is topped by a dentiled cornice supported by two rounded brackets. The cornice is also topped by a rectangular date stone with an eagle with spread wings on top of it. The center bay of the façade on the second floor is fenestrated by a panel of nine, two-paned, metal-framed windows.

The central entrance is flanked on each side by two bays of windows. The first floor of each bay has a panel of eight, two-paned, metal-framed windows, while the second floor has a panel of nine, two-paned, metal-framed windows. Above the windows are panels decorated with a Greek Key motif. Each bay is separated by a two story tall unfluted Doric column.

A projecting cornice decorated by four medallions separates the second and third floors. The third floor of the 1924 building is fenestrated by five pairs of four-pane metal casement windows. Another projecting cornice separates the third floor from the parapet, which is decorated by a central projecting shield flanked on each side by eagles.

The north façade of the 1929 Gem Building is four bays wide. The westernmost bay, which is the narrowest, is constructed out of stone and contains a recessed entrance on the first floor topped by a decorative arch and single-pane windows on the second and third floors. The top of the building has a series of vertical incisions in the stone. The second bay from the right has an opening on the first floor and is solid brick on the second and third floors, although each floor had one window originally. The third and fourth bays, like the second bay, have large openings on the first floor where the commercial spaces were originally, and the top two floors of each bay are fenestrated by two single-pane windows. The bays of the building are separated by fluted engaged pilasters and the decorative cornice spans the façade.

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Side/West Façade

The west façade of the building is divided into two sections, the front section of the building, and a rear section, which were both built in 1924. The front section of the building is symmetrical and is oriented around a large bank of windows in the center. The large bank of windows consists of two level of five two-over-two, metal-framed, casement windows. A row of five two-paned casement windows is also present above the upper row of windows.

The large bank of windows is flanked on each side by a large square engaged Doric pilaster followed by a column of five single-pane, metal framed windows. Continuing out from the center of the façade's front section, a wall space separates the column of single windows from two levels of two two-over-two, metal-framed, casement windows. A row of two two-paned casement windows is also present above the upper row of windows.

As on the front façade, a projecting cornice decorated by two medallions separates the second and third floors. The third floor of the front section of the building is fenestrated by a group of five four-pane metal casement windows flanked on each side by a pair of four-pane metal casement windows. Another projecting cornice separates the third floor from the parapet.

The rear section of the west façade is set back slightly from the front section, and would have contained more of the utilitarian sections of the building. Beginning at the south end of the section, the first floor has an entrance into the building comprised of two plate-glass metal doors flanked on each side by a plate glass window. Historic photographs of the building indicate that this was originally an entrance for armored vehicles to enter the building. To the left of the entrance is a two-paned, metal-framed casement window that was originally followed by a doorway that appears to have provided access to a stairwell. The doorway has been removed and replaced with stone to match the original stonework.

The second level of the building's rear section is fenestrated by a two-over-two, metal-framed casement window. To the right of the window is an incised rectangular panel and to the left of the window is a gable-roofed alarm box.

The third level of the rear section, beginning at the left, is fenestrated by a tall two-over-two, metal-framed casement window followed by three two-paned, metal-framed casement windows.

As on the front section of the façade, a projecting separates, in this case, the third level from the top floor. The top floor of this section of the building is fenestrated by a four evenly-spaced, four-pane metal casement windows. Another projecting cornice separates the top floor from the parapet.

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Rear/South Façade

The rear façade of the 1924 building is devoid of fenestration except for a pair of six-pane windows in the center of the third floor. A light well also exists towards the east end of the 1924 building to provide light to the upper floors of the 1924 building.

The rear façade of the Gem Building annex has no fenestration.

Side/East Façade

The north end of the east façade is comprised of the side of the Gem Building, and is like the second bay on the front façade. The second bay from the right has an opening on the first floor and is solid brick on the second and third floors, although each floor had one window originally. The open bay of the building is flanked by fluted engaged pilasters and the decorative cornice spans the façade. The rest of the façade is solid brick, although it did have windows originally to provide light to the second and third floor offices.

Integrity

Overall, the Federal Reserve Bank Building retains excellent integrity. The original 1924 section of the building has had very few changes since it was completed. On the west side, the original armored truck entrance has been altered to accommodate a pedestrian entrance, and the original pedestrian entrance has been filled in with stone to resemble the rest of the wall. Also, on the west and north façades, decorative grilles over the lower portions of the first floor windows have been removed.

The greatest changes in integrity center on the Gem Building, which was integrated into the building in 1959. The original commercial spaces on the first floor were altered to accommodate an automobile and armored truck entrance to service the growing bank. In addition, the upper floor fenestration was removed and the openings bricked in to fit the bank's needs, although some of the openings were reopened to their original size between 1984 and 1991.

When the bank was built in 1924, it was located in the heart of downtown Little Rock, approximately one mile east of the State Capitol. The setting around the building still reflects the urban character that would have existed around the building in 1924.

Name of Property

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.)

- Criteria A, B, C, and D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Economics

Period of Significance

1924-1959

Significant Dates

1924

1929

1959

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

Architect/Builder

Thompson and Harding, architects (1924 building)

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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):

- Documentation checkboxes: preliminary determination, previously listed, designated landmark, recorded by survey, recorded by engineering.

Primary location of additional data:

- Location checkboxes: State Historic Preservation Office, Other State Agency, Federal Agency, Local Government, University, Other.

Name of repository:

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SUMMARY

When the Federal Reserve Bank Building was listed in the National Register on October 23, 1986, it was apparently listed under Criterion C with local significance as a good example of the Neoclassical style by the noted Little Rock architectural firm of Thompson and Harding. The nomination also included only the original bank building and did not include the annex that was incorporated into the building in 1959.

In addition to being significant for its architecture, the Federal Reserve Bank Building is also important under Criterion A with local significance for its role in the economic life of Little Rock. Prior to the establishment of the Little Rock branch of the Federal Reserve Bank on September 14, 1918, member banks had to deal with the Federal Reserve Bank in St. Louis. The establishment of a Federal Reserve Bank branch in Little Rock was important in that it added to the facilities that could aid in financial development in Arkansas, and it also helped to illustrate Little Rock's growing importance as a financial center.

The Federal Reserve Bank Building was listed under the multiple property listing "Structures in Arkansas Represented by the Charles L. Thompson Design Collection – A Thematic Group."

ELABORATION

Settlement in the Little Rock area began shortly after the turn of the nineteenth century. Although surveying land and offering it for sale did not begin until 1815, a few settlers were in the area prior to then. Edmund Hogan, for example, who was originally from Georgia and came to Arkansas via Missouri, was living on the north bank of the Arkansas River opposite Little Rock where he operated a ferry by 1812. Another distinguished early settler was Wright Daniel who settled at the base of Big Rock Mountain prior to 1814 and opened a gristmill in 1815. When the Arkansas Territory was created in 1819, the state's first capital was at Arkansas Post. However, it was not the best location since it often flooded and was far away from the majority of the territory's population. In 1820, a new centrally-located site for the capital was chosen on the south bank of the Arkansas River at the Little Rock.¹

Initial settlement and development in Little Rock was focused on the river. The original plat of Little Rock consisted of 88 square blocks stretching south from the river to what is now Eleventh Street. By the 1860s, however, the city began to expand beyond the original plat, notably with the platting of the Woodruff's and Masonic additions on the city's east side, the Wright's Addition on the south side, and the Capitol Hill Addition on the west side. Apparently, building sites on the city's west side were popular. An announcement in the November 21, 1872, issue of the *Arkansas Gazette* stated that "This property consists of twenty-seven full and

¹ Roy, F. Hampton, Sr., and Charles Witsell, Jr., with Cheryl Griffith Nichols. *How We Lived: Little Rock as an American City*. Little Rock: August House, 1984, pp. 12-14.

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fractional blocks, overlooking the Cairo and Fulton railroad as it leaves the city. ...This is a fine property, and from its geographical position, will soon become a portion of the city. Upward of one hundred lots in the addition have already been disposed of, and are at this time being improved.”²

From the time of Arkansas’s statehood in 1836, banking has been an important issue in the state. The first state constitution had a provision for the creation of two banks, the Arkansas Real Estate Bank and the Arkansas State Bank. The Arkansas State Bank was meant to serve the general public and also be the depository for state funds. The funds in the Arkansas State Bank were used for some commercial projects, although most of the banks funds were used for funding land sales.³ The Arkansas Real Estate Bank, on the other hand, was meant to facilitate agricultural development.

Although the bank was chartered in 1836, it had trouble beginning operation because of the provision that it had to have \$50,000 of specie, and the fact that the United States entered into a severe depression in 1837. However, when the Department of War started buying state bonds, including \$300,000 worth from Arkansas, the Arkansas State Bank could begin operation. The bank’s main office was in Little Rock, but it also had branch offices in Batesville, Fayetteville, and Arkansas Post.⁴

The Arkansas State Bank and the Real Estate Bank were never strong financial institutions because of the faulty and inflationary lending policies that they practiced. As a result, the Arkansas State Bank closed in 1843. Because of the problems with the state banks, many people distrusted all banks, and the first amendment to the state’s constitution banned all banks from operating in Arkansas.⁵

Although banks had been banned from Arkansas with the amendment to the constitution in 1844, they were back in business by the early 1870s. In 1872, for example, a new building was under construction in downtown Little Rock for the Stoddard Bank. The building was finished in May 1873 and was significant for its cast-iron façade, something that was new in Little Rock.⁶

Banking in Little Rock continued to grow throughout the late nineteenth century. By 1889, *The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Central Arkansas*, reported:

² *Ibid*, pp. 19, 104.

³ Roberts, Carey M. “Arkansas State Bank” from the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture. Found at: <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=2945>.

⁴ *Ibid*.

⁵ *Ibid*.

⁶ Roy, F. Hampton, Sr., and Charles Witsell, Jr., with Cheryl Griffith Nichols, p. 144.

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That the banking interests of Little Rock have assumed vast proportions within a recent period will readily be understood when we consider that for many years two banks, with moderate capital, transacted the business of the city, which now requires three National, one State and two private banks, with an aggregate capital of almost one and one-half million dollars. The banking business, so far from being overdone in Little Rock, offers an excellent field to the capitalist. Rates are moderate and losses small. While the banks are accommodating, they are also conservative. They are conducted upon the broad principle that low rates of interest on good commercial paper is better for all parties interested than extortionate interest and great risks.⁷

Banks that existed in Little Rock in 1889 included the First National Bank, German National Bank, the Exchange National Bank, the Bank of Little Rock, the Worthen Bank, and Edward W. Parker & Company.

The importance of banking in Little Rock, especially during the first decades of the twentieth century, brought about the need for the establishment of a Federal Reserve Bank branch, and a branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis was established on September 14, 1918. The establishment of the branch was the culmination of a more than six-month effort by the Little Rock Clearing House Association due to the fact that many Arkansas banks, including eight in Little Rock alone, were already members of the Federal Reserve System.⁸

When the Little Rock Branch opened on January 6, 1919, it was the largest bank in Arkansas, but had the fewest number of customers at 43. The first location of the Federal Reserve Bank was in offices on the second floor of the Southern Trust Building at 2nd and Center streets in downtown Little Rock. The bank was equipped with the latest in modern conveniences, including a “vault which was fire and burglar proof” and “its own private electric elevator leading to the street below, thus enabling currency and coin to be transported without being carried through the lobby and entrance to the building.” At the time of its opening, the bank had two officers, John M. Davis, Manager, and A. F. Bailey, Cashier, along with seventeen employees, which included five women.⁹

In addition to the regular employees, the Branch also had a Board of Directors, who all lived in Little Rock. They were:

Ed Cornish, Vice President of American National Bank
W. L. Hemingway, President of the Mercantile Trust Company

⁷ *The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Central Arkansas*. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing co., 1889, p. 390.

⁸ French, Jean. “History of the Little Rock Branch.” From an unknown publication, September-October 1967. In the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

⁹ *Ibid.*

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Moorehead Wright, President of the Union Trust Company
George W. Rogers, Vice President of the Bank of Commerce
John M. Davis, Manager of the Branch¹⁰

The popularity of the Federal Reserve Bank Branch was immediate. By the end of 1919, the bank had 42 employees, which was a tremendous increase over the original 17. In addition, the number of member banks had increased to 57. The increase in the bank's business can also be seen in the number of checks that the bank processed, which rose from 750 on opening day to 12,563 on December 31, 1919.¹¹

The growth that the branch experienced in 1919 continued into the 1920s, and it brought about the need for the bank to build its own building. In 1923, a lot that was the former site of Reinman's Stable was purchased at the southeast corner of 3rd and Louisiana streets, and Thompson and Harding were hired to design the new building. Construction of the building began on January 7, 1924, and was to be finished in nine months. Historic photographs that show the construction's progress illustrate that by August 1, 1924, the concrete frame was finished and the limestone cladding was being installed on the first floor. Just a month later, the majority of the limestone cladding on the first floor was completed on the front section of the building, and most of the cladding on the rear section of the building was done up to the roof.¹²

Although the building was to be finished in nine months, it was apparently not completed on time. A photograph taken during construction, likely in early October 1924, shows that the stone cladding was not quite finished on the parapet and there were not any windows in the building. In addition, the formal opening of the building to the public did not occur until March 16, 1925, when officers A. F. Bailey, M. H. Long, and F. A. Coe held an open house from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.¹³

At the time of the building's opening, Moorehead Wright, who was the Chairman of the Board of Directors, made the following comments about the building:

The building is a model of the best banking construction and arrangement. Everything is designed for convenience and economy of operation. There is no money invested in ornamentation or finery of any sort. The building is plain but of best materials, and built according to government standards. The outstanding

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² *Ibid* and photographs illustrating the construction of the Federal Reserve Bank in the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

¹³ French, Jean. "History of the Little Rock Branch." From an unknown publication, September-October 1967. In the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

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feature of the plant, of course, is the vault, which in size is designed to meet the needs of this community for many years as a place of safety for securities and money of the capital city. The vault is in reality a unit of the state and national defense in time of trouble. The walls, the doors, floor, ceiling, outside and inside, and all appurtenances of the vaults are in material and arrangement of the most modern and best approved design of the present-day practice.¹⁴

After the new building was finished, business still increased, especially during World War II. However, with a few interior remodelings, the building was able to handle the business and the staff. In 1944, a third floor was proposed for the building, although it was never carried out, although the mezzanine was extended and the interior was remodeled in 1949. Continued growth necessitated another remodeling in 1956 and a cafeteria was added to the second floor in January 1957.¹⁵

However, interior remodelings were only going to be a short-term solution, and by the late 1950s a more permanent solution to the space problems was needed. On January 7, 1959, the Gem Building, which had housed a café, pool hall, two private clubs, photographer's studio, workshops for Gus Blass Company decorators and a kitchen for Schneider Candies, and was located to the east of the Bank building was purchased and remodeled. The ground floor housed a secured entrance and parking area for cars and trucks, the second floor was used for old records and the stock room, and the third floor housed general storage along with a target range for the guards.¹⁶

Apparently, the remodeling of the Gem Building was also meant to be a temporary fix. On November 9, 1961, the *Arkansas Democrat* reported that:

The Federal Reserve Bank of Little Rock today announced plans for a \$2 million expansion project here, which will consist primarily of construction of a new building to serve as an annex for its main banking facility at 3rd and Louisiana. ...

Delos C. Johns, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, described a new facility as a building of contemporary style, five stories, possibly six, in height.

It will be constructed on the 60-by-100-foot site presently occupied by the Gem Building, 113-117 W. 3rd. The Gem Building, he said, will be demolished to make way for the new structure.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

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Construction should begin in about four months, as soon as preliminary work on building plans, designs and so forth are completed. It is expected to be finished by autumn of 1963. ...

Architects for the project will be Schwarz & Van Hoefen of St. Louis, which will work in association with Ginocchio, Cromwell, Carter, Dees & Neyland of Little Rock. The Little Rock firm designed the present location of the Little Rock Federal Reserve Bank.¹⁷

However, the proposed demolition of the Gem Building and the construction of a new annex never took place.

By 1960, there were 67 member banks that were depositing approximately \$90,000,000 daily. Furthermore, the Check Collection department of the bank processed nearly 190,000 checks a year and as computers and data processing became more mainstream in business, it became necessary to find a lot more space to house those functions. Rather than proceed with the demolition of the Gem Building and construct a new annex, it was decided to search for a new location and build an entirely new facility. On August 13, 1963, a new site at the southeast corner of Capitol and Spring streets was purchased for approximately \$600,000.¹⁸

Once the new site was purchased detailed planning for the new bank facility could proceed and ground was broken on July 13, 1965. Construction of the new building took just under two years to complete, and the new building was formally dedicated on May 11, 1967. Moving to the new bank occurred over the next week and operations began at the new facility on May 22, 1967.¹⁹

After the Federal Reserve Bank Branch on 3rd Street was vacated it was used for a variety of offices until c.2008. Currently, the building is mainly vacant, although plans are in the works to renovate the building for use by the Estem Charter School. However, the building's importance in the economic life of Little Rock is undeniable, and the building remains a good example of the Neoclassical style by the firm of Thompson and Harding.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

When the Federal Reserve Bank Building was listed in the National Register on October 23, 1986, it was apparently listed under Criterion C with local significance as a good example of the Neoclassical style by the noted Little Rock architectural firm of Thompson and Harding. The nomination also included only the original bank building and did not include the annex that was incorporated into the building in 1959.

¹⁷ "Bank Sets \$2 Million Project." *Arkansas Democrat*. 9 November 1961, pp. 1-2.

¹⁸ French, Jean. "History of the Little Rock Branch." From an unknown publication, September-October 1967. In the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

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In addition to being significant for its architecture, the Federal Reserve Bank Building is also important under Criterion A with local significance for its role in the economic life of Little Rock. Prior to the establishment of the Little Rock branch of the Federal Reserve Bank on September 14, 1918, member banks had to deal with the Federal Reserve Bank in St. Louis. The establishment of a Federal Reserve Bank branch in Little Rock was important in that it added to the facilities that could aid in financial development in Arkansas, and it also helped to illustrate Little Rock's growing importance as a financial center.

The Federal Reserve Bank Building was listed under the multiple property listing "Structures in Arkansas Represented by the Charles L. Thompson Design Collection – A Thematic Group."

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property: Federal Reserve Bank Building
Additional Documentation and Boundary Increase

County and State: Pulaski County, Arkansas

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable): Structures
in Arkansas Represented by the Charles L. Thompson
Design Collection – A Thematic Group

Section number: 9 Page: 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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French, Jean. “History of the Little Rock Branch.” From an unknown publication, September-October 1967. In the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Central Arkansas. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing co., 1889.

Photographs illustrating the construction of the Federal Reserve Bank in the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

Roy, F. Hampton, Sr., and Charles Witsell, Jr., with Cheryl Griffith Nichols. *How We Lived: Little Rock as an American City*. Little Rock: August House, 1984.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property: Federal Reserve Bank Building
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County and State: Pulaski County, Arkansas

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable): Structures
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 1 & 2 of Block 76, Original City of Little Rock.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary contains the land that is historically associated with the Federal Reserve Bank Building and its annex.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property: Federal Reserve Bank Building
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County and State: Pulaski County, Arkansas

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable): Structures
in Arkansas Represented by the Charles L. Thompson
Design Collection – A Thematic Group

Section number: Historic Photos Page: 1

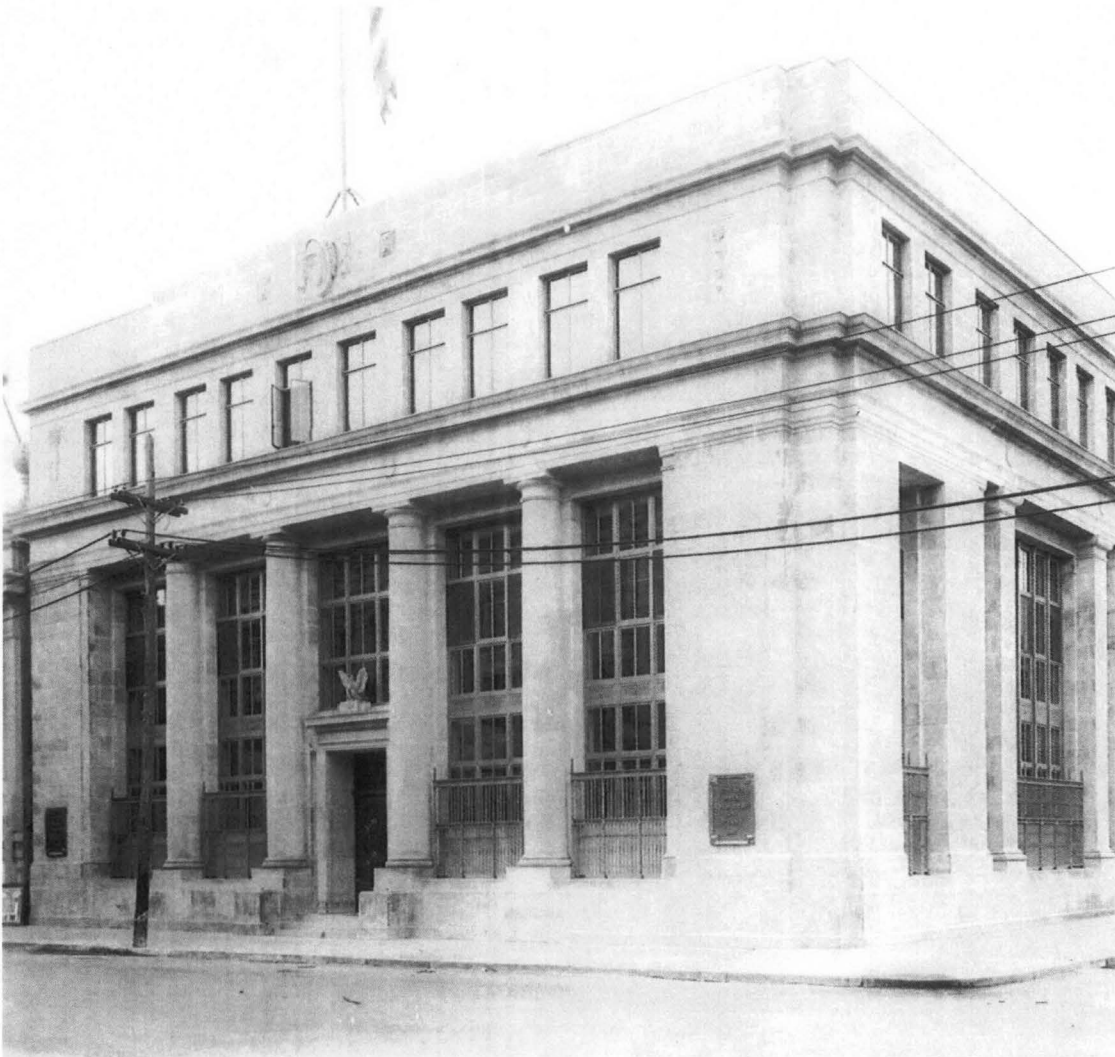


Figure 1: Federal Reserve Bank Building, c.1925
(From the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property: Federal Reserve Bank Building
Additional Documentation and Boundary Increase

County and State: Pulaski County, Arkansas

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable): Structures
in Arkansas Represented by the Charles L. Thompson
Design Collection – A Thematic Group

Section number: Historic Photos Page: 2



Figure 2: Federal Reserve Bank Building under construction, 1924
(From the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property: Federal Reserve Bank Building
Additional Documentation and Boundary Increase

County and State: Pulaski County, Arkansas

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable): Structures
in Arkansas Represented by the Charles L. Thompson
Design Collection – A Thematic Group

Section number: Historic Photos Page: 3



Figure 3: Federal Reserve Bank Building under construction, 1924
(From the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property: Federal Reserve Bank Building
Additional Documentation and Boundary Increase

County and State: Pulaski County, Arkansas

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable): Structures
in Arkansas Represented by the Charles L. Thompson
Design Collection – A Thematic Group

Section number: Historic Photos Page: 4

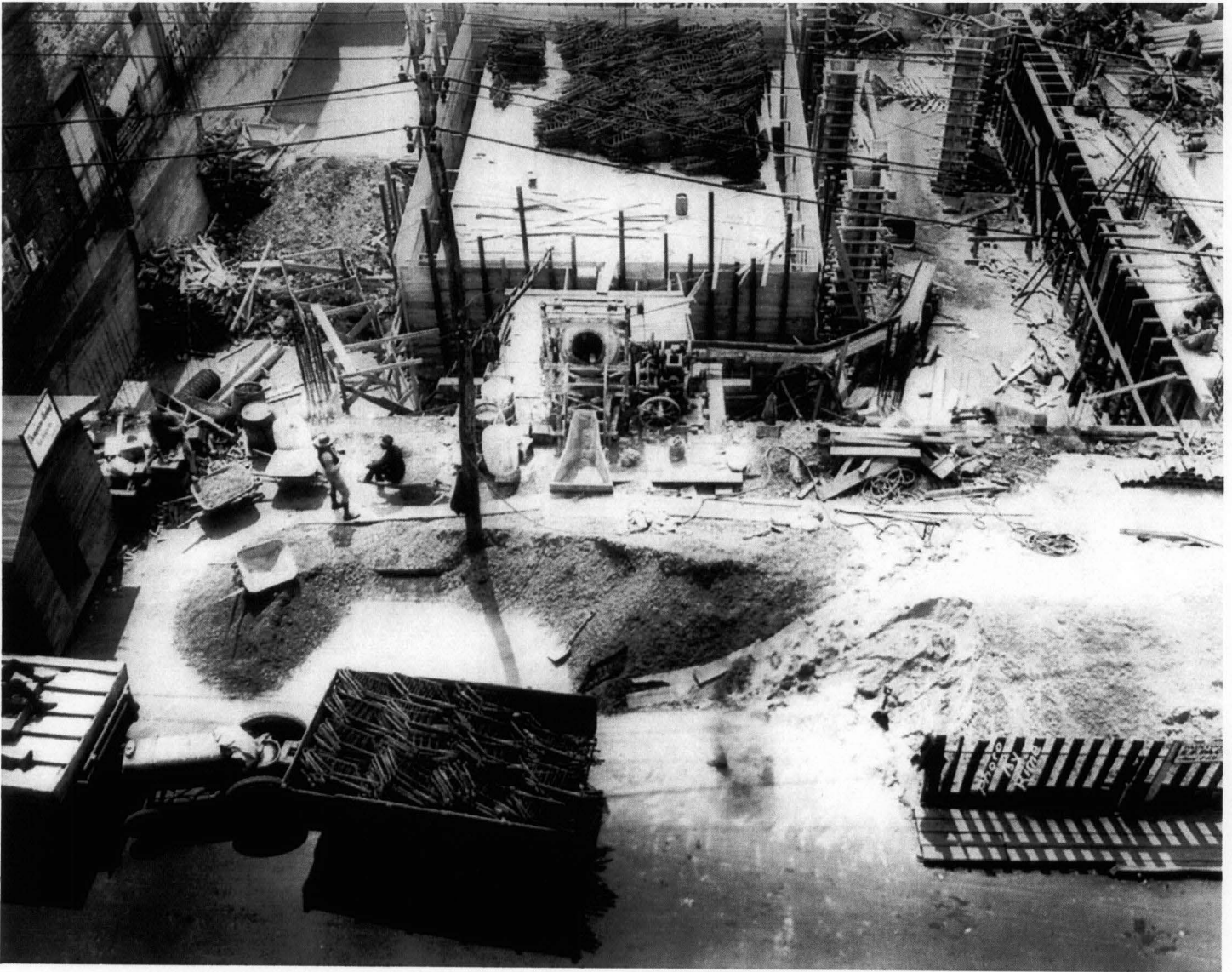


Figure 4: Federal Reserve Bank Building under construction, 1924
(From the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property: Federal Reserve Bank Building
Additional Documentation and Boundary Increase

County and State: Pulaski County, Arkansas

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable): Structures
in Arkansas Represented by the Charles L. Thompson
Design Collection – A Thematic Group

Section number: Historic Photos Page: 5

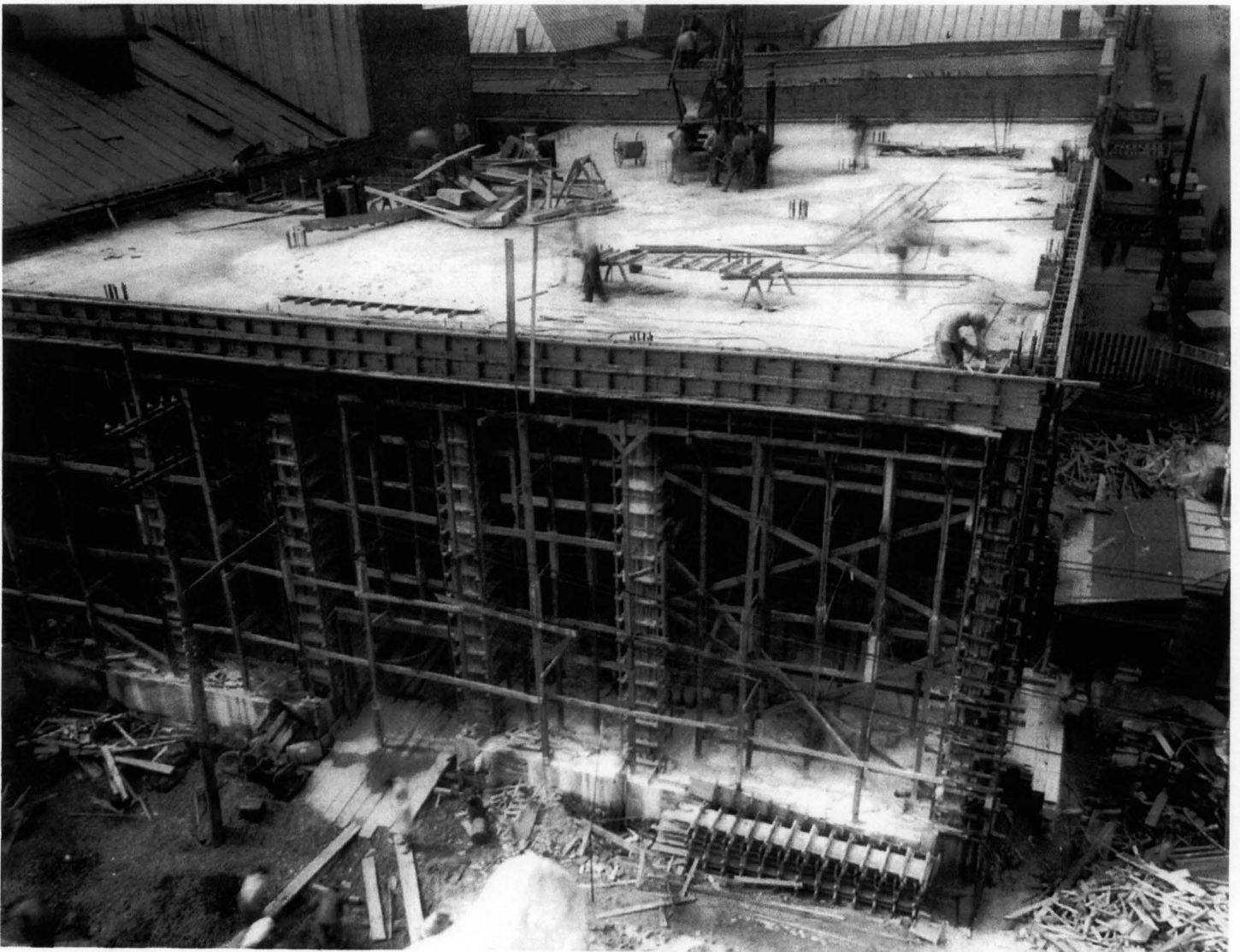


Figure 5: Federal Reserve Bank Building under construction, 1924
(From the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property: Federal Reserve Bank Building
Additional Documentation and Boundary Increase

County and State: Pulaski County, Arkansas

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable): Structures
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Design Collection – A Thematic Group

Section number: Historic Photos Page: 6

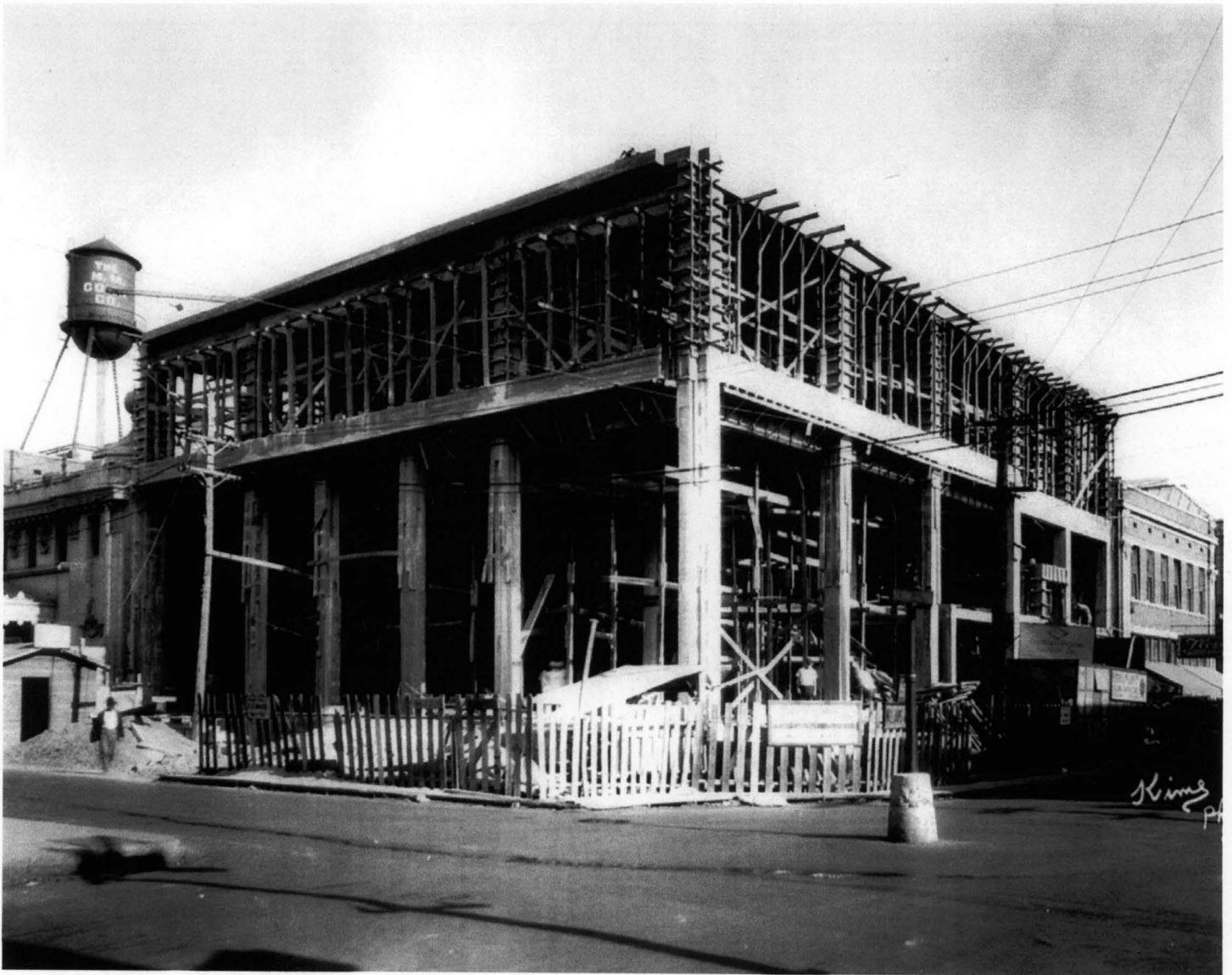


Figure 6: Federal Reserve Bank Building under construction, 1924
(From the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property: Federal Reserve Bank Building
Additional Documentation and Boundary Increase

County and State: Pulaski County, Arkansas

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable): Structures
in Arkansas Represented by the Charles L. Thompson
Design Collection – A Thematic Group

Section number: Historic Photos Page: 7



Figure 7: Federal Reserve Bank Building under construction, August 1, 1924
(From the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property: Federal Reserve Bank Building
Additional Documentation and Boundary Increase

County and State: Pulaski County, Arkansas

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable): Structures
in Arkansas Represented by the Charles L. Thompson
Design Collection – A Thematic Group

Section number: Historic Photos Page: 8

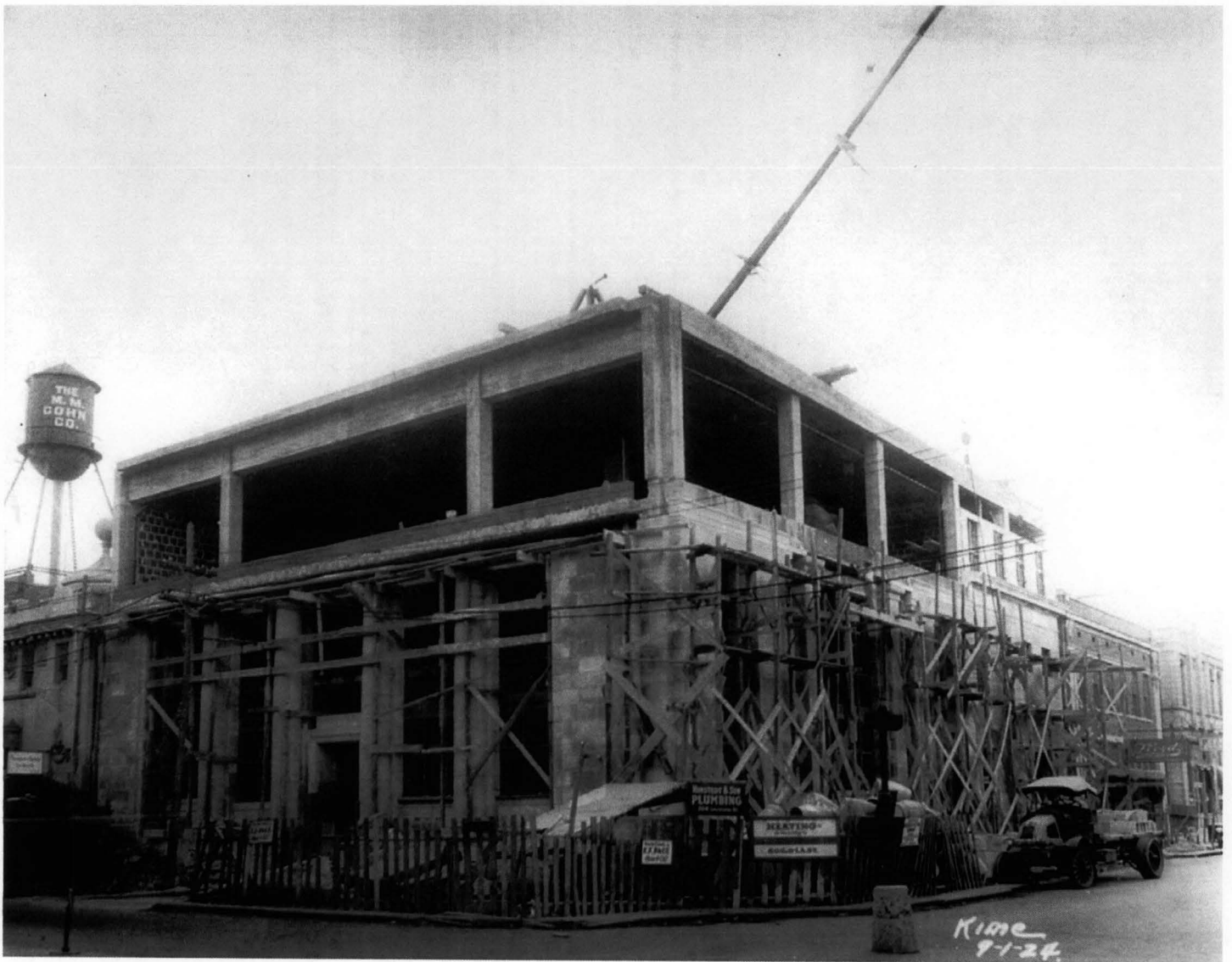


Figure 8: Federal Reserve Bank Building under construction, September 1, 1924
(From the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property: Federal Reserve Bank Building
Additional Documentation and Boundary Increase

County and State: Pulaski County, Arkansas

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable): Structures
in Arkansas Represented by the Charles L. Thompson
Design Collection – A Thematic Group

Section number: Historic Photos Page: 9



Figure 9: Federal Reserve Bank Building under construction, 1924
(From the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property: Federal Reserve Bank Building
Additional Documentation and Boundary Increase

County and State: Pulaski County, Arkansas

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable): Structures
in Arkansas Represented by the Charles L. Thompson
Design Collection – A Thematic Group

Section number: Historic Photos Page: 10



Figure 10: Armored truck at the Federal Reserve Bank Building, c.1925
(From the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property: Federal Reserve Bank Building
Additional Documentation and Boundary Increase

County and State: Pulaski County, Arkansas

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable): Structures
in Arkansas Represented by the Charles L. Thompson
Design Collection – A Thematic Group

Section number: Historic Photos Page: 11



Figure 11: Employees of the Federal Reserve Bank Building in the main banking hall, date unknown.
(From the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Federal Reserve Bank Building (Boundary Increase)
NAME:

MULTIPLE Thompson, Charles L., Design Collection TR
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Pulaski

DATE RECEIVED: 6/03/09 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/22/09
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/07/09 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/17/09
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 09000513

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 7.15.09 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



FEDERAL RESERVE BANK BUILDING

PULASKI COUNTY, AR

RALPH S. WILCOX

MARCH 2009

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR

NORTH FACADE, LOOKING SOUTHEAST



FEDERAL RESERVE BANK BUILDING

PULASKI COUNTY, AR

RALPH S. WILCOX

MARCH 2009

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR

NORTH FACADE OF THE ANNEX, LOOKING SOUTHWEST



FEDERAL RESERVE BANK BUILDING

PULASKI COUNTY, AR

RALPH S. WILCOX

MARCH 2009

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR

WEST FACADE, LOOKING SOUTHEAST



FEDERAL RESERVE BANK BUILDING

PULASKI COUNTY, AR

RALPH S. WILCOX

MARCH 2009

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR

SOUTH FACADE, LOOKING NORTHWEST



FEDERAL RESERVE BANK BUILDING

PULASKI COUNTY, AR

RALPH S. WILCOX

MARCH 2009

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR

EAST FACADE, LOOKING NORTHWEST

Missing Core Documentation

Property Name	County, State	Reference Number
Federal Reserve Bank Building (Boundary Increase)	Pulaski, Arkansas	09000513

The following Core Documentation is missing from this entry:

Nomination Form

Photographs

USGS Map



The Department of
**Arkansas
Heritage**

Mike Beebe
Governor

Cathie Matthews
Director

Arkansas Arts Council

*

Arkansas Natural Heritage
Commission

*

Delta Cultural Center

*

Historic Arkansas Museum

*

Mosaic Templars
Cultural Center

*

Old State House Museum



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An Equal Opportunity Employer



May 13, 2009

Dr. Janet Matthews
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
8th Floor
1201 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Federal Reserve Bank Building Additional Documentation
and Boundary Increase – Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas

Dear Dr. Matthews:

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

If you need further information, please call Ralph S. Wilcox of my staff at (501) 324-9787. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:rsw

Enclosure