

PH 0046841

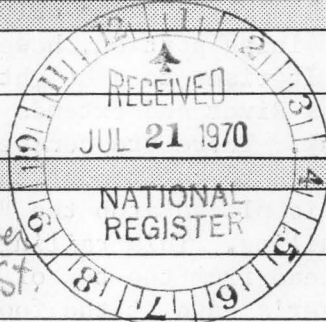
Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Arkansas	
COUNTY: Pulaski	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.10.03.0015	DATE 10/6/70



1. NAME	
COMMON: The Little Rock	
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: See appended map Arkansas River foot of Rock St.			
CITY OR TOWN: Little Rock			
STATE Arkansas	CODE 03	COUNTY: Pulaski	CODE 119

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Missouri Pacific Railroad			
STREET AND NUMBER: Missouri Pacific Depot, Markham and Victory Streets			
CITY OR TOWN: Little Rock	STATE: Arkansas	CODE 03	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Pulaski County Court House			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Little Rock	STATE: Arkansas	CODE 03	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY:			
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

70.10.03.0015 10/6/70

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

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

(Check One)

☒ Altered ☐ Unaltered

(Check One)

☐ Moved ☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

At the present time only a portion of the original Little Rock remains. The remaining portion, however, is quite large and probably weighs several tons. It rises to a height of about 18 feet above the level of the Arkansas River and extends for a distance of approximately 40 feet along the bank. There are concrete steps leading down from the top of the river bank to the top of the rock and a descriptive, metal, historical marker is placed atop the "Rock". The marker is enclosed in an iron, pipe railing. This railing extends on either side of the concrete steps which lead from the top of the bank to the marker. The "Rock" stands at the river's edge at the foot of Rock Street on property which now belongs to the Missouri Pacific Railroad. Almost adjacent to the "Rock", and probably built on a portion of the original "Rock", is the approach to the Missouri Pacific Railroad bridge which crosses the river at this point. The site is overshadowed by the bridge and the visitor is forced to approach the site by crossing a series of railroad tracks which service a series of run-down warehouses along the riverfront.

Originally, the "Little Rock" probably was taller than the river-bank and would have certainly served as a landmark for someone approaching the site from downstream. The rock out-cropping, of which the "Little Rock" formed a part, apparently juttred out into the river, for early maps of the city show this point as an apparent protuberance on an otherwise smooth shoreline.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Phi-☐ Other (Specify)☒ Historic☐ Industry

losophy

☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☐ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art

Architecture

☐ Social/Human-☐ Commerce☐ Literature

itarian

☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the "Little Rock", lies primarily in the fact that the Arkansas city, which is the largest in population, and the most important as the State Capitol, takes its name from this rock formation. Also significant is the knowledge that the "Little Rock" served as a starting point for most of the land surveys south of the Arkansas River.

The first known reference to "rocks" along the Arkansas River was by Bernard de La Harpe in the course of his explorations in April of 1722. La Harpe makes no reference at this time to Little Rock, however.

"On the ninth, having advanced a league, we found some rocky country, and a league further "The Rock", which is to the right of the river; we named it the French Rock. This is a steep mountain of clean rock made of limestone which forms three mountains one after the other"

The first reference to "The Little Rocks" was made after the United States had purchased Louisiana from the French. John B. Treat, in a letter written to the Secretary of War on November 15, 1805, states:

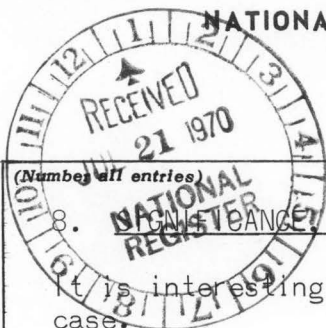
"For the first fifty leagues above this, both shores are moderately high, and well wooded, five or six leagues beyond the Country becomes somewhat mountainous and being stoney along the river side has caused it to be named the Little Rocks."

It is not until 1818 that we find the Little Rock being used as a landmark. At this time it was used as a reference, or base point for a survey of Indian lands. The following Statement is found in The Territorial Papers of the United States.

"Below a line to commence at the little rock on the Arkansas thence south to the Saline Creek."

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

STATE Arkansas	
COUNTY Pulaski	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.10.03.0015	DATE 10/6/70



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

8. ~~CANCELLED~~ CONT'D

It is interesting to note that the reference to Little Rock is in lower case.

In 1819 Thomas Nuttall made the following observation:

"The facade or cliffs, in which it terminates on the bank of the river is called the Little Rock, as it is the first stone which occurs in place."

Reuben Gold Thwaites, in providing an editor's footnote to the Nuttall Journal says:

"called La Petite Rochelle by the French, to distinguish it from the larger rocky promontory two miles further up the river."

Thwaites does not, however, document the source from which he quotes the name La Petite Rochelle.

Timothy Flint, in his A Condensed Geography and History of the Western States, published in 1828, makes the following observation:

"The seat of government is at a point about 300 miles by the course of the river and a little more than half the distance by land above the Post. It is on the south bank of the river, on a very high stone bluff, ludicrously called Little Rock, from the prodigious masses of stone about it. The situation is healthy and pleasant, and the circumstances of its being the metropolis has caused a village to spring up here. It is called Arcopolis."

By 1834-35, the name Little Rock was in general use for the town. G.W. Featherstonhaugh uses the name Little Rock in his book Excursion Through the Slave States and also gives the following version of how the town acquired its name.

"The town of Little Rock receives its name from being built upon the first rock - a slate which underlies the sandstone and dips SE at a great inclination - which juts out into the Arkansa, in coming up the river from its mouth in the Mississippi . . ."

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Arkansas	
COUNTY Pulaski	
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(Number all entries)

9. Major Bibliographical References - Cont'd

Carter, Clarence Edwin, The Territorial Papers of the United States,
The Territory of Arkansas, 1819 -1825,
U. S. Government Office, Washington: 1953
Vol. XIX, p. 11

Featherstonhaugh, G. W., Excursion Through the Slave States, (2 Vols)
John Murray, London: 1844, Vol. II, p.39

Flint, Timothy, A Condensed History of the Western States (2 Vols),
E. H. Flint, Cincinnati: 1828, Vol. I, pp 584 - 585.

Lewis, Anna, Along the Arkansas, The Southwest Press, Dallas, Texas: 1932

Nuttall, Thomas, "Journals of Travels into the Arkansas Territory",
Early Western Travels 1748 - 1846, ed. Reuben Gold
Thwaites, The Arthur H. Clark Company, Cleveland:
1907, Vol XIII, p. 123, p. 146.



"La Petite Roche" REGISTER NUMBER *70.10.03.0015* *10/6/70*

DATE OF RECEIPT *7/21/70* YES NO NUMBER *2*
DATA PAGE *10/21/70*
PHOTO (S) *70000124*
PHOTO DESCRIPTION (S)
MAP (S)
MAP DESCRIPTION (S)
LOGGED
ACKNOWLEDGE *7/29/70*

REVIEW *OK Is location sufficient?*
HISTORIAN *Environment & rock seem to be pretty well mutilated, but OK for state & local historical significance.*
HISTORIAN *OK*
ARCHITECT *OK*

7/29/70
Gamble
8/3/70
Levy
8/13/70
Chambers
8/4/70

ASST. KEEPER
KEEPER

AK *CDM* *8/20/70*

ENTRY
CHIEF, CAMP
RECEIVED
EDITORIAL PROCESSING, EDITOR
NATIONAL REGISTER
Federal Register Entry
Annual Edition Entry
This seems to me to be a natural landmark or one with somewhat vague historical importance. Many towns are ~~located~~ named for natural formations, but this doesn't make the landmark historic. Conference

10-6-70
CD *8/14/70*

LOGGED CARD WORKING NUMBER *7.21.70.2*

COMMENTS:
Issue resolved, Betty agrees with Bob and rest.
Conference *S.M.* *8/19/70*

LA PETITE ROCHE OR THE LITTLE ROCK

LENGTH 25.00 FT. BREADTH 12.00 FT. THICKNESS 1.00 FT.
ELEVATION 247.00 FEET ABOVE MEAN SEA LEVEL

THIS ROCK,

FROM WHICH THE SURROUNDING CITY TAKES ITS NAME,
WAS DISCOVERED IN 1722 BY

BERNARD DE LA HARPE,

THE FIRST EUROPEAN TO ASCEND

THE ARCHAIC RIVER TO THIS PLACE.

LA HARPE NAMED IT "LA PETITE ROCHE"

TO DISTINGUISH IT FROM THE "BIG ROCK" BLUFF
FIFTEEN UP THE RIVER ON THE OTHER SIDE.

LATER THE ROCK WAS USED AS

THE BEGINNING POINT OF THE QUARRY LINE,

THE WESTERN BOUNDARY OF THE QUAPAW INDIAN LANDS

SURVEYED BY THOMAS C. BECTON IN 1892.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Arkansas	
COUNTY Pulaski	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.10.03.0015	DATE 10/6/70

1. NAME

COMMON: The Little Rock

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

See appended map

CITY OR TOWN:

Little Rock

STATE:

Arkansas

CODE

03

COUNTY:

Pulaski

CODE

119

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Jack E. Porter

DATE OF PHOTO: March 24, 1970

NEGATIVE FILED AT:

Arkansas History Commission

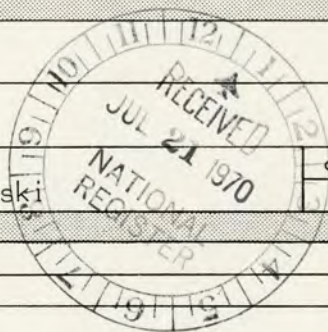
4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Monument and marker atop the Little Rock.

This view looks to the north across the river (Arkansas).

Barge in the background is carrying equipment used to rebuild the Missouri Pacific bridge.





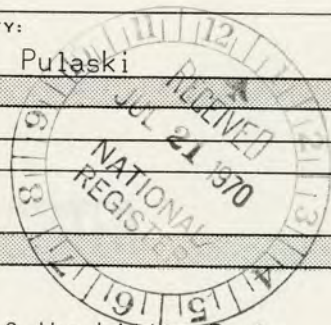
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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Little Rock			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Arkansas	03	Pulaski	119
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Jack E. Porter			
DATE OF PHOTO: March 24, 1970			
NEGATIVE FILED AT:			
Arkansas History Commission			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
View of the remaining portion of the Little Rock, looking to the northwest.			



Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

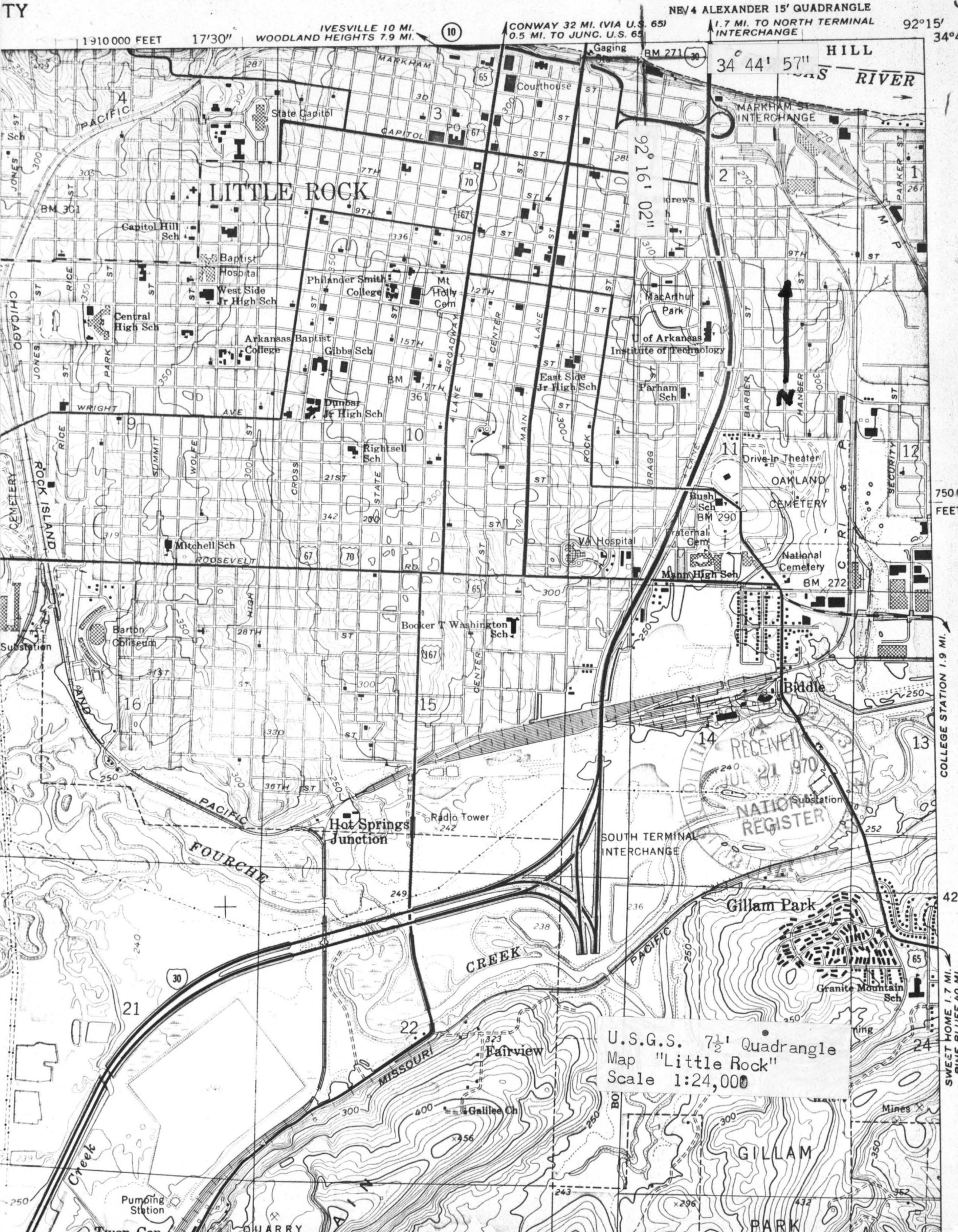
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Arkansas	
COUNTY Pulaski	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.10.03.0015	DATE 10/6/70

1. NAME			
COMMON: The Little Rock			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
See appended map			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Little Rock			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Arkansas	03	Pulaski	119
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. 7½' Quadrangle "Little Rock" (1961)			
SCALE: 1: 24,000			
DATE: 1961			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



TY



U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' Quadrangle
Map "Little Rock"
Scale 1:24,000

GILLAM

PARK

OCT 6 1970

H30-HR

Dr. George M. Reynolds
Chairman, State Review Committee
Arkansas History Commission
Old State House
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Dr. Reynolds:

We are pleased to inform you that The Little Rock in Little Rock, Arkansas, has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Senators John L. McClellan and J. W. Fulbright and Representative Wilbur D. Mills have also been notified. Please withhold any publicity on this until you have received a carbon copy of the Congressional correspondence.

Sincerely yours,

/S/ Ernest Allen Connally

Ernest Allen Connally
Chief, Office of Archeology
and Historic Preservation

OCT 6 1970

Entered in the National Register

cc:

HR

9/29/70

SMarusin:drs

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

H30-HR

OCT 14 1970

Hon. Wilbur D. Mills
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Mills:

We are pleased to inform you that The Little Rock in Little Rock, Arkansas, has been nominated by the State Liaison Officer appointed by the Governor for the implementation of the National Historic Preservation Program in Arkansas and has been entered into the National Register of Historic Places. Senators John L. McClellan and J. W. Fulbright have also been provided with this information. By copy of this letter, the State Liaison Officer, Dr. George M. Reynolds, Chairman, State Review Committee, Arkansas History Commission, Old State House, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201, has likewise been notified. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) GEORGE B. HARTZOG, JR.
Director

Enclosure

Entered in the National Register

OCT 6 1970

cc: Dr. George M. Reynolds, Chairman, State Review Committee, Arkansas History Commission, Old State House, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Director, Southeast Region

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

SMarusin:drs

9/29/70

LL: Mr. Melvin
T
HR

H30-HR

OCT 14 1970

Hon. John L. McClellan
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator McClellan:

We are pleased to inform you that The Little Rock in Little Rock, Arkansas, has been nominated by the State Liaison Officer appointed by the Governor for the implementation of the National Historic Preservation Program in Arkansas and has been entered into the National Register of Historic Places. Senator J. W. Fulbright and Representative Wilbur D. Mills have also been provided with this information. By copy of this letter, the State Liaison Officer, Dr. George M. Reynolds, Chairman, State Review Committee, Arkansas History Commission, Old State House, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201, has likewise been notified. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) GEORGE B. HARTZOG, JR.

Director

Enclosure

Entered in the National Register

OCT 6 1970

cc: Dr. George M. Reynolds, Chairman, State Review Committee, Arkansas
History Commission, Old State House, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Duplicate letters sent to: Hon. J. W. Fulbright
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Hon. Wilbur D. Mills
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

SMarusin:drs

9/29/70

Director, Southeast Region

LL: Mr. Melvin

HR