

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only	
received	9/24/86
date entered	OCT 23 1986

Continuation sheet

Item number 1, 2, 4, 6, & 10 Page 1

INDIVIDUAL DATA SHEET

General Description

Code: PU-169

Congressional District: 2

Name: Exchange Bank Building

Current Owner: Real Properties, Inc.

Address: 423 Main Street

Little Rock, Arkansas

County: Pulaski

Address: 114 East Capitol Avenue
Little Rock, AR 72201

Architectural Information

Architectural Firm: Thompson and Harding

Date of Construction: 1921

Stylistic Influence: Classical Revival

Original Use: Bank

Present Use: Offices

Geographical Information

UTM Reference: 15/566790/3844720

Acreage: less than one

Verbal Boundary Description: Lot 6, Block 5,
Original City

Condition

☒ Excellent
☐ Good
☐ Fair

☐ Deteriorated
☐ Ruins
☐ Unexposed

☒ Unaltered
☐ Altered

SEP 24 1986

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Item number 7 & 8

Page 2

Code: PU-169 (Exchange Bank Building, 423 Main Street, Little Rock)Physical Description

The Exchange Bank Building is a five-story structure that was constructed in 1921 of reinforced concrete. The building is designed to withstand the addition of several additional floors, although this option has never been pursued by the owners. The building's yellow brick shaft provides a neutral backdrop for an outstanding array of Classical Revival elements executed in limestone on the south and west street facades. The base of the Exchange Bank Building is clad in black granite and bevel-cut limestone, and ornamental lion's head panels detail the horizontal band between the base and shaft. The Main Street entrance features a pair of brass doors and is flanked by engaged Doric columns. The west, or Main Street facade is dominated by a pair of three-story engaged, fluted Ionic columns which support an entablature which stretches across the west facade and down the south side of the building as a limestone band between the fourth and fifth floors. The outermost bay of windows on the west elevation are connected by vertical limestone molding; the second floor windows have broken pediments for hoods. A prominent cornice is accentuated by modillion blocks and brackets and is topped by a parapet wall. The Capitol Avenue facade is divided by seven window bays and a secondary entrance at the eastern corner of this facade originally serviced a retail space. An extensive restoration project has recently returned the property to its original appearance, save the replacement of all of the original windows with stationary panes.

Statement of Significance

When the Masonic Temple at the corner of Main and Capitol Streets burned in August 1919, the city's third oldest financial institution, the Exchange Bank, was left without quarters. The officers resolved to construct on the same site a modern, fireproof structure that would house the bank's offices and provide quality rental space to a rapidly growing city. The Exchange Bank retained the architectural firm of Charles Thompson and Thomas Harding to design their new facility; they responded with a plan which must be regarded as one of the Thompson Firm's finest commercial commissions. Its elaborate detailing and use of expensive materials made it the most elegant structure on Main Street. Unfortunately, in 1931, the Exchange Bank, like so many other lending institutions across the country, failed and the building was involved in a foreclosure. The banking lobby was lowered to street level, remodeled for retail space, and the building became known simply as the Exchange Building. The property is now owned by Stephens, Inc., the largest off-Wall Street investment banking firm in the United States.

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Charles I. Thompson Design Collection TRState Polaski County, Arkansas

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

149. Exchange Bank Building

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

150. Federal Reserve Bank
BuildingEntered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

151. Moore Building

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

152. Hall Building

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

153. Democrat Printing &
Lithograph Co. Bldg.

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

154. Beal-Burrow Dry Goods Building

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

155. YMCA Building

Substantive Review

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Keeper

Attest

156. Waters--Pierce Oil Company Building

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

157. Rose, U.M., School

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

158. Nichol House

Keeper

Attest

8600 2896

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Exchange Bank Building (Charles L. Thompson
Design Collection TR)
Pulaski County
ARKANSAS

Working No. _____
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/2/88
Date Due: 10/23/86 - 11/8/86
Action: ACCEPT 10-23-86
____ RETURN
____ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in
National Register

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
		<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. 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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



EXCHANGE BANK BUILDING - PU-169

Little Rock, Pulaski Co., Arkansas

Viewed from southwest

Photographed by Sarah Brown, 1984

Negatives on file at AHPP

SEP 24 1986

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000032