

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received SEP 25 1979

date entered

OCT 18 1979

1. Name

historic Little Rock Central Fire Station

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 520 West Markham St. _____ not for publication

city, town Little Rock _____ vicinity of congressional district Second

state Arkansas code 05 county Pulaski code 119

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

4. Owner of Property

name City of Little Rock, City Hall

street & number 500 West Markham

city, town Little Rock _____ vicinity of state Arkansas 72201

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Pulaski County Courthouse

street & number 405 West Markham

city, town Little Rock _____ state Arkansas 72201

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Ark. Historic Preservation Survey has this property been determined eligible? ☒ yes ☐ no

date 1976 _____ federal ☒ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

city, town Little Rock _____ state Arkansas 72201

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Central Fire Station was constructed in 1913. Little Rock architect Charles Thompson, aided by associate architect Tom Harding, designed the building. The building is a fine example of the Neo-Classical civic architecture that, as a result of the Beaux Arts influence, flourished in this country during the first decades of the twentieth century.

The Beaux Arts-inspired fire station is a two-story structure with a basement. Its monumental front elevation, which faces south on Markham Street, is the most architecturally significant aspect of the building. This facade features a giant Doric order set on square stone pedestals. Four fluted columns define five central bays. These hold floor-to-ceiling glass doors on the first floor. The doors provided fire vehicles with access to the apparatus room, which occupied most of the first floor. On the second floor, five flattened Roman-arched openings hold long, rectangular windows flanked by narrow glass panels. Individual panes of glass compose a transom above. Carved stone keystones articulate each of the brick arches. Originally, folding glass doors offered access to the semi-circular balconies. The balconies have delicate ornamental iron railings that distinguish the facade. The massive, brick, terminal bays of this elevation provide a distinctive contrast to the light, open quality communicated by the central area. They rest upon an exposed stone foundation that relates in material and scale to the pedestals of the order. The walls of these end bays are interrupted only by the penetration of a single doorway on each side of the building. A heavy, but unembellished, stone moulding articulates these doors. Engaged columns also define the corners of the building and provide transition from the open order to the massive columns.

The crowning feature of the principal facade contributes substantially to the formidable image of the fire station. A terra cotta architrave extends along the entire front facade of the building under an unembellished frieze of the same material which bears the inscription, "Little Rock Fire Department." The building is capped with a simple dentiled cornice. A stone parapet wall rises above the cornice and terminated in a bold, cast terra cotta version of the fire department emblem located at the center of the parapet.

The building's grand principal facade masks the pragmatic functionalism of the fire station, but the secondary elevations are more austere. The prominently articulated south corners of the building turn to accentuate the secondary elevations. They project almost one foot forward from the east and west sides, and the stone foundation continues with them. The pressed-brick of the west elevation is interrupted only by utilitarian, double-hung, rectangular windows regularly placed on the first and second floors and on their stone sills. Windows on the east side of the building are not quite so regularly delineated. However, the east elevation features a projecting bay window supported on stone brackets and capped with a simple cornice articulating what once was the assistant chief's office. As a result of the topography of the site, which slopes in a northerly direction toward the Arkansas River, the undistinguished basement story is exposed on both the east and west. Here, garage-like doors provide access to the maintenance shop. Both the east and west walls terminate in a brick continuation of the parapet wall. Simple corbeling extends along the side walls at the level of the architrave, and a stone coping tops the parapet.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED SEP 25 1979

DATE ENTERED

OCT 18 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

An addition to the north side of the fire station constructed in 1952 virtually obscures all but the second floor of the rear elevation of the original building. The two-story addition, designed by architect K.E.N. Cole, Jr., is devoid of distinctive architectural character. The corners of the addition are brick. Large expanses of metal-framed windows, separated by corrugated-metal siding between the second and first floors, appear on all three of the addition's elevations. This appendage has an anonymous, industrial character but fortunately is sited in a way that presents only a low profile on the already undistinguished north (rear) facade. It is not visible from the Markham Street thoroughfare and does not intrude on the stately principal visage of the building.

The original plan of the building allocated space on the ground floor for fire-fighting apparatus, administrative offices, and the chief's office. Firemen's dormitories, locker room and showers, the kitchen, and a special apartment for the assistant chief were located on the second floor. The east side of the basement was a garage for the police department while the west side served as a store-room and repair shop for the fire department.

The fire station was originally fitted with brass hardware, brass "sliding poles," and marble stairs. Offices had tile flooring while poured concrete floors remained exposed throughout the rest of the building. Interior partitions were constructed of plate glass above marble wainscoting. The poles and some partitions have since been removed.

There have been few changes in the appearance of the principal facade of the fire station. In 1957, the folding glass balcony doors were replaced with the existing window arrangement to facilitate the installation of a central air conditioning system. The modern fire station doors that now enclose the apparatus room were added at that time.

Presently, the fire station provides the city with storage space and office facilities. The fire station's fine facade thus still masks the building's utilitarian function.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1913 **Builder/Architect** Charles Thompson, Tom Harding

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

With its back to the Arkansas River and its monumental front elevation adorning the busy Markham Street thoroughfare, the Central Fire Station marks the western edge of Little Rock's traditional governmental center. For 64 years, between 1913 and 1977, the building served as headquarters for the Little Rock Fire Department. It housed the equipment and men of various aerial and chemical truck companies and provided space for all of the central communications network and general administration offices of the Fire Department. Given the vast changes that took place in the technology of fire-fighting equipment, it is remarkable that the building accommodated the department for so long. But the enduring significance of the building lies in its architectural style, especially the striking Beaux Arts-inspired Neo-Classical facade. The fire station was designed to complement the elegant City Hall building next door by two of Little Rock's busiest and most respected architects, Charles Thompson and Tom Harding. With great Doric columns separated by two stories of multi-pane glass, distinctive second-story ornamental balconies, and crown, featuring the bold Fire Department emblem, the station is eye-catching and memorable. It is probable that the building was the inspiration for a subsequent series of pleasant substations in the city. Several of Little Rock's fire stations are architecturally attractive and designed to blend into their respective neighborhoods.

9. Major Bibliographical References

The Arkansas Gazette. April 21, 1913.

The Arkansas Democrat. 1913 Issues.

Interviews with Jack Davis, Little Rock Fire Chief, and Melvin White, Director, Little Rock General Services Department, September, 1979.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than one acre.

Quadrangle name Little Rock

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 1 5 5 6 6 3 0 0 3 8 4 5 2 8 0
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

West half of Block 121, Original City. Bounded by North Arch Street on the west, La Harpe Boulevard on the north, City Hall on the east, and West Markham on the south.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ethel Goodstein, Architectural Historian, Robert Besom, Historian

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date September 20, 1979

street & number Suite 500, Continental Building telephone 501-371-2763

city or town Little Rock state Arkansas 72201

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national state X local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Paul Williams Baddidge

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date September 21, 1979

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date 10-18-79

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: *Beth Grosvenor*

date 10/18/79

Chief of Registration

Property

Little Rock Central Fire Station

State

AR (Pulaski)

Working Number

9-25-79 2236

79000451

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos

Maps

4
1

Wonderful Beaux-Arts fire station (new storage + office space). The rear addition is unfortunate, but does not mar the building's essential architectural significance.

HISTORIAN

accept
B. Grosvenor
10/18/79

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

accept
B. Grosvenor
10/18/79

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

Federal Register Entry

11.6.79

Send-back _____

Re-submit _____

Entered OCT 18 1979



Little Rock Central Fire Station
Little Rock, Arkansas, *Pulaski County*
Bob Dunn

SEP 25 1979

1979

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
South elevation viewed from the
the south

#1 *4*

DOE
OCT 18 1979



Little Rock Centrak fire Station
Little Rock, Arkansas, *Pulaski county*
bob Dunn
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
East elevation viewed from the
northeast

#2 *1/4*

SEP 25 1979

DOE
OCT 18 1979



Little Rock Central Fire Station
Little Rock, Arkansas, *Pulaski County*
Bob Dunn
1979

SEP 25 1979

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
West and south elevations viewed from
the southwest

#3 *14*

ROC
OCT 18 1979



Little Rock Central Fire Station

Little Rock, Arkansas, *PULASKI County*

Bob Dunn

1979

SEP 25 1979

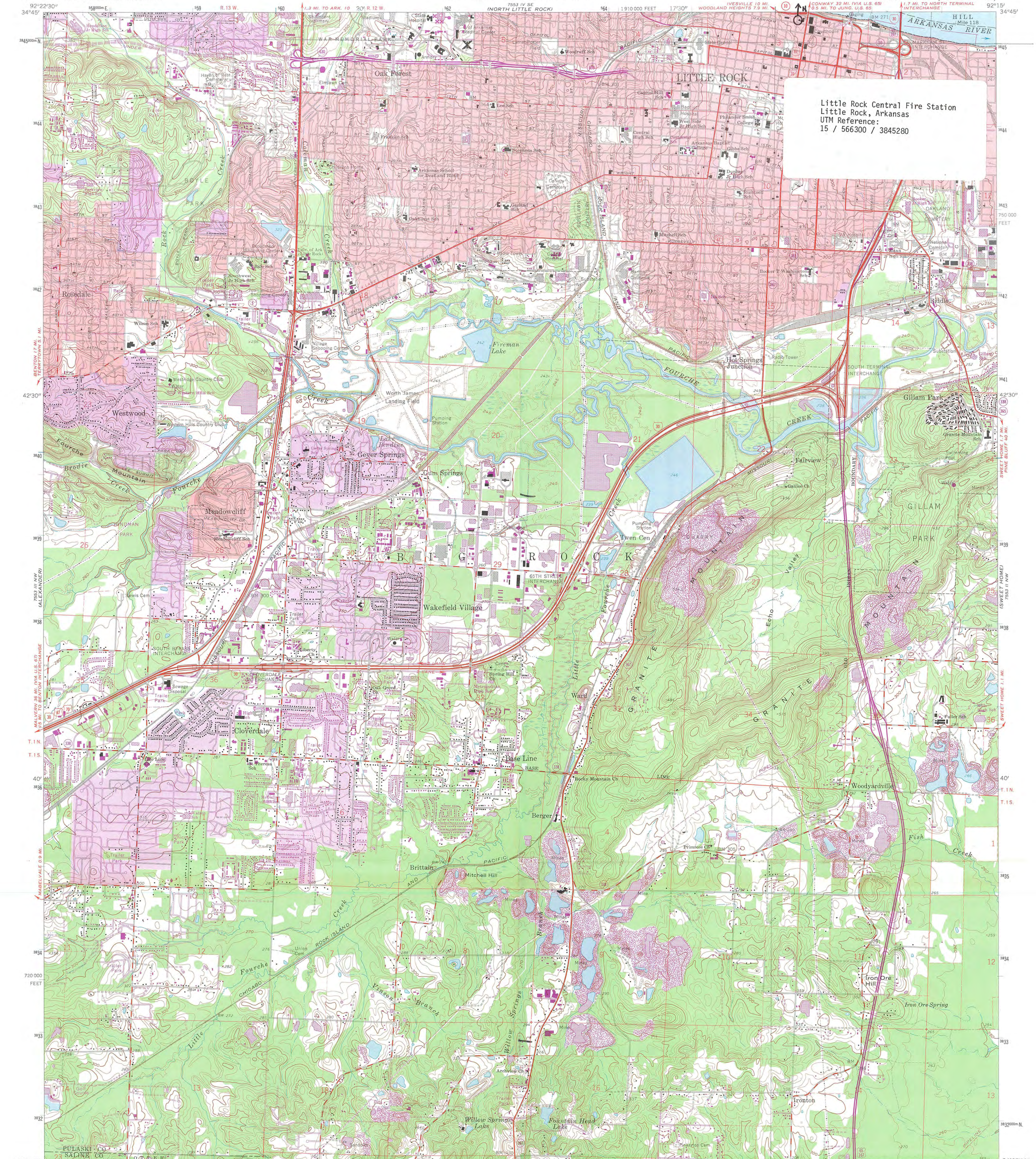
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

North elevation, including the

new addition, and west elevation
viewed from the northwest

#494

OCT 18 1979





ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Suite 500, Continental Building · Markham and Main · Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Phone: (501) 371-2763

September 10, 1979

Mr. Charles Herrington
Acting Keeper of the National Register
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Pension Building
440 G Street, North West
Washington, D. C. 20243

Dear Mr. Herrington:

I have legal authority to approve the nomination of the following property to the National Register of Historic Places:

City Hall and Old Central Fire Station

(Name of Property)

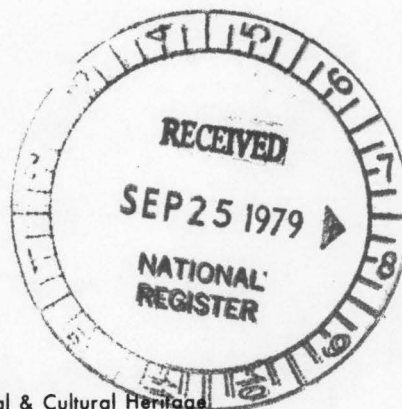
Markham & Broadway and Markham and Arch Streets

(Location of Property)

Little Rock, Arkansas

I am aware of the consequences of National Register listing and am aware that the provisions of the Tax Reform Act of 1976 apply only to depreciable properties. I approve of the nomination of the above-listed property and hereby waive my right to the 30 day commenting period.


(Signature of Authorizing Official)



RESOLUTION NO. 6,211

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PLACEMENT OF CITY HALL
AND THE CENTRAL FIRE STATION BUILDINGS ON THE
NATIONAL HISTORIC REGISTER.

WHEREAS, the City Manager and Board of Directors have jurisdiction over the City Hall and Central Fire Station Buildings, and they are aware of their nomination to the National Historic Register and of the consequences of their placement on the Register.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY OF LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. That the City Manager and Board of Directors hereby approve and support the nominations and waive the right to a thirty day comment period.

SECTION 2. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption.

ADOPTED: September 18, 1979

ATTEST:

Jane Czech
City Clerk

APPROVED:

W. B. G. Hall
Mayor



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ARKANSAS

Date Entered OCT 18 1979

Name

Location

Little Rock City Hall

Little Rock
Pulaski County

Little Rock Central Fire Station

Little Rock
Pulaski County

Pulaski County Courthouse

Little Rock
Pulaski County

Also Notified

Honorable Dale Bumpers

Honorable David Pryor

Honorable Ed Bethune

State Historic Preservation Officer

Ms. Joan Baldrige

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

Suite 500, Continental Building

Markham and Main Streets

Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

NR Byers/bjr 10/22/79



ARKANSAS
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
PROGRAM

May 29, 1986

Ms. Carol Shull
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1100 "L" Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

During a recent effort to make current and accurate Arkansas' list of National Register properties, we have discovered several discrepancies between our list and the annual list that is published by the National Register of Historic Places. This letter will address and hopefully, correct those discrepancies.

The following properties have been destroyed or demolished and should be de-listed from the National Register:

Benton County, St. Louis & San Francisco Depot, 1st & Cherry Streets, Rogers, listed 08/15/77, demolished 1979.

Calhoun County, Ouachita River Lock & Dam #8, Southeast of Calion, listed 12/19/83, demolished 1985.

Cleveland County, Mt. Carmel United Methodist Church, Southeast off Hwy 79, vicinity of Rison, listed 10/04/84, destroyed April 1986.

Faulkner County, Main Hall-Central College, 1509 College Avenue, Conway, listed 12/06/75, demolished June 1984.

Independence County, Uriah Maxfield House, 410 E. Harrison, Batesville, listed 05/02/75, demolished 1985.

Newton County, Newton County Academy, Gum Springs Road, Parthenon, listed 01/09/79, destroyed

Pulaski County, Al-Amin Temple, 2100 Main Street, Little Rock, listed 12/22/82, (Charles Thompson Thematic nomination), destroyed by fire November 1985.

Pulaski County, Forrey-Smith Apartments, 4th & Ringo Streets, Little Rock, listed 12/22/82 (Charles Thompson Thematic nomination), demolished January 1986.

Union County, Garrett House, 210 Peach Street, El Dorado, listed 11/21/74, destroyed.



These properties were incorrectly listed as Determinations of Eligibility in the annual supplements, rather than entries to the National Register. I have enclosed copies of the notification sheets that we received when they were listed.

Arkansas County, Standard Ice Company Building, 517 Main, Stuttgart,
listed 07/02/79.

Pulaski County, Little Rock City Hall, 500 W. Markham, Little Rock,
listed 10/18/79.

[Pulaski County, Little Rock Central Fire Station, 520 W. Markham,
Little Rock, listed 10/18/79.

Pulaski County, Pulaski County Courthouse, 405 W. Markham, Little Rock,
listed 10/18/79.

Several of the properties that are included on our National Register list were not reflected in the annual reports. I have enclosed copies of the notification sheets for these properties.

Jackson County, Jackson County Jail, 503 Third Street, Newport, listed
08/10/79.

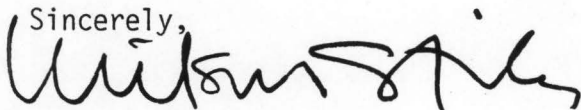
Polk County, Judge Benjamin Shaver House, 501 12th Street, Mena, listed
12/06/79.

Washington County, John S. Vest House, 21 N. West Street, Fayetteville,
listed 11/27/79.

One final correction involves a boundary increase for a property previously listed. Marlsgate, the primary structure located on the Dortch Plantation, was listed on the National Register on 12/06/75. Several years later another nomination form was prepared for the entire plantation--including the main house, Marlsgate--that increased the acreage of the nominated property from less than one acre to 975 acres. The new nomination for Dortch Plantation was included in the National Register on 03/21/79. The notification sheet is enclosed. This property is located in Lonoke County.

Thank you for your assistance in dealing with the corrections discussed above. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me or Julie Vosmik.

Sincerely,



Wilson Stiles
State Historic Preservation Officer

WS/JW/do

Enclosures

JUN 3 1986