Form 10-300 (July 1969) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE:	
Arkansas	
COUNTY: Washington	
FOR NPS USE ON	1LY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70.6.03.0007	6/15/70

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	☐ Site ☐ Structure	☐ Private	☐ In Proces		☐ Unoccupied	Restricted		
	☐ Object	☐ Both	☐ Being Co	onsidered	Preservation work	☐ No		
	gevel engales	Les Jano S	esporti nom sea		in progress	No		
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7.	DESCRIPTION							
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	CONDITION	☐ Excellent	Good	☐ Fair	Deteriorated	Ruins	☐ Unexposed	
1	CONDITION	PART STREET, S	(Check Or	ie)	CHINE STREET, CALL	(Che	ck One)	
		X Alter	red	☐ Unaltered	MINATION	☐ Moved	▼ Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE The exterior appearance of Old Main has changed little since its completion about 1879. The interior has undergone a continuous evolution during its lifetime, though changes in the basic fabric of the building have been little more than the inevitable repartitioning involved with use change. Heating, plumbing, and electrical systems have been repeatedly modernized. Reconstruction of the stairwells in 1948 to meet safety code requirements, and the installation of a passenger elevator constitute the most significant alterations in the original building.

Dimensions, as given by an extant copy of the original specifications: "... the building to be 214 ft. front, the central part 64 feet deep, the flanks 120 ft. front each and 64 ft. deep, the building forming 3 sides of a hollow square, leaving a court in the rear of the central part of the bldg . . . the bldg. to contain a basement and four stories." ETCS O MARKE 81-

Exterior walls and interior bearing walls are of red brick, kilned locally of clay dug on or near the campus site. Floor and roof construction is of wood, most of which was supplied by the historic Van Winkle mill at War Eagle, 30 miles northeast. Cast iron columns have been used in the larger rooms of the north and south wings, and iron trusses are in the towers at 3rd floor level to resist extra stresses there.

Window sills, arched window heads, quoins, and columns and trim of the front entrance are of limestone quarried in Washington and Madison counties. Exterior walls of the basement floor extend 10 feet above finished grade and are faced with rusticated brown sandstone which was quarried nearby.

A Mansard roof encloses the fourth (topmost) floor. The dormer windows of this floor are trimmed in wood which takes the form of triangular pediments supported by plain wood pilasters at the jambs. A wide projecting cornice separates the brick facade from the Mansard floor, and is supported by rythmically spaced wood scroll-brackets.

Both corner towers are topped by Mansard roofs. The south tower has a concave silhouette, whereas the north tower roof has an ogee silhouette of the towers, despite legends to the contrary, is without political or historic significance, and was, doubtless, a whim of the designer.

Some pertinent chronology from the notes of the Building Committee, Executive Committee, and the Board of Trustees: August 17, 1873 -- Ground was broken. Sept. 1875 -- Original con-

too to without

tract completed, leaving basement and fourth floor unfinished APR 17 1970

(See Continuation Sheet)

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Arkansas	
COUNTY	
Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONL	Y
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70.6.03.0007	6/15/70

(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION, CONT'D

1879 -- Completion of Mansard (4th) floor. 1881 -- Outside woodwork painted.

1884-87 -- A heating system installed replacing wood-burning stoves. Water closets installed for males and females.

1885 -- A new roof "of the best tin" replaced a troublesome old one.
1895 -- The water system, originally fed by a cistern, was connected

to the newly completed Fayetteville water system.

1896 -- Sewer system installed for main building and dormitories, discharging into a valley west of campus.

1948 -- In compliance with fire-code, stair wells were isolated by fire doors, and wood stairs and handrails were replaced by fire-resistant steel with quarry tile surfacing.

1953 -- A greenhouse was connected to the south facade for botanical research.



SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century		177-173 17 -13
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable	le and Known) Constru	ction began 1873.	Completed 1879
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	ck One or More as Appropri	ate)	
Abor iginal	Education	☐ Political	Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	☐ Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
☐ Historic	☐ Industry	losophy	2.91/10/
☐ Agriculture	☐ Invention	Science	(C)
Architecture	☐ Landscape	☐ Sculpture	RECEIVED
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	12 - WOD 3-
☐ Commerce	Literature	itarian	AFK 17 1970
☐ Communications	Military	☐ Theater	NATION -
☐ Conservation	☐ Music	☐ Transportation	REGISTE
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			(0)

From the time of its completion "Old Main" became the visual symbol of higher education in Arkansas. For the first 25 years of its existence it housed almost all of the activities of the University

life. After almost 100 years and the addition of dozens of new buildings to the campus, "Old Main" continues to be the identifying land-

mark of the University.

The University of Arkansas was born as the Arkansas Industrial University in 1871 when the Arkansas General Assembly passed Act XLIV and elected a Board of Trustees. Governor O. A. Hadley approved the Act on March 27, 1871. Fayetteville in Washington County and Batesville in Independence County were the only towns to show an interest in being chosen as the university site. In spite of its isolation from the rest of the State, Fayetteville was chosen. The choice must have been influenced by the minimum bond issue voted by Washington County and by generous land offerings by citizen of Fayetteville.

Having visited the Agricultural and Industrial Universities of Illinois and Michigan, and also the Illinois Normal College, the Board of Trustees was convinced, by April 16, 1873, that the plans of University Hall at Illinois Industrial University (University of Illinois at Urbana) was superior to the previously considered plans of McKay and Lelmle of Helena, Arkansas.

A trustee, E. J. Searls, visited Urbana, Illinois, intending to obtain plans and specifications for the admired Illinois Industrial University building. Finding their plans incomplete and therefore useless, Mr. Searls went to Chicago to obtain plans from the architect, John Mills Van Osdel. All of Van Osdel's plans and papers had been destroyed in the great fire of 1871, but he agreed to reproduce them for the sum of \$1,000, with "such changes as we might suggest."

Architectural historian, Alan Gowans, has used a photograph of "Old Main" in his book Images of American Living (Lippincott, 1964) as an illustration of the High Victorian style. Of this style he writes,

(See Continuation Sheet)

Z

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

First Report of the Arkansas Industrial University, Little Rock: Little Rock Printing and Publishing Co., pp. 46,57,59,93,152, 165-168, 173-175, 179-182.

Gowans, Alan, Images of American Living, New York: Lippincott Co., 1964.

Hale, Harrison, University of Arkansas, 1871-1948, Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Alumni Association, 1948. pp 25-29, 35,42,58, 150-151, 157.

(See Continuation Sheet)

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Title	Executive			11					/					

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Akransas	
Washington	
FOR NPS USE ON	LY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
10, 6.03,0001	6/15/1

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE, CONT'D

"Far to the west cosmopolitan grandeurs of Washington, Philadelphia, and New York could hardly be equalled; but they could be emulated, on an appropriate scale. So during the late 1860's and 70's one college after another -- particularly the new land-grant institutions created during the war -- erected those fine new towered, mansarded, gingerbreaded buildings beloved as the "Old Mains" of later alumni reunions, dramatizing the new kind of American education, comprehensible in subject matter and democratically available to all ..."



Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Arkansas	
COUNTY	
Washington	
FOR NPS USE ON	ILY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70.1.03.1507	6/15/10

(Number all entries)

9. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES CONT'D

Official Records of the Executive Committee, the Building Committee, and the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas, Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Library.

Reynolds, John Hugh, and Thomas, David Yancey, <u>History of the University</u> of Arkansas, Fayetteville: University of Arkansas, 1910, pp. 102-103.



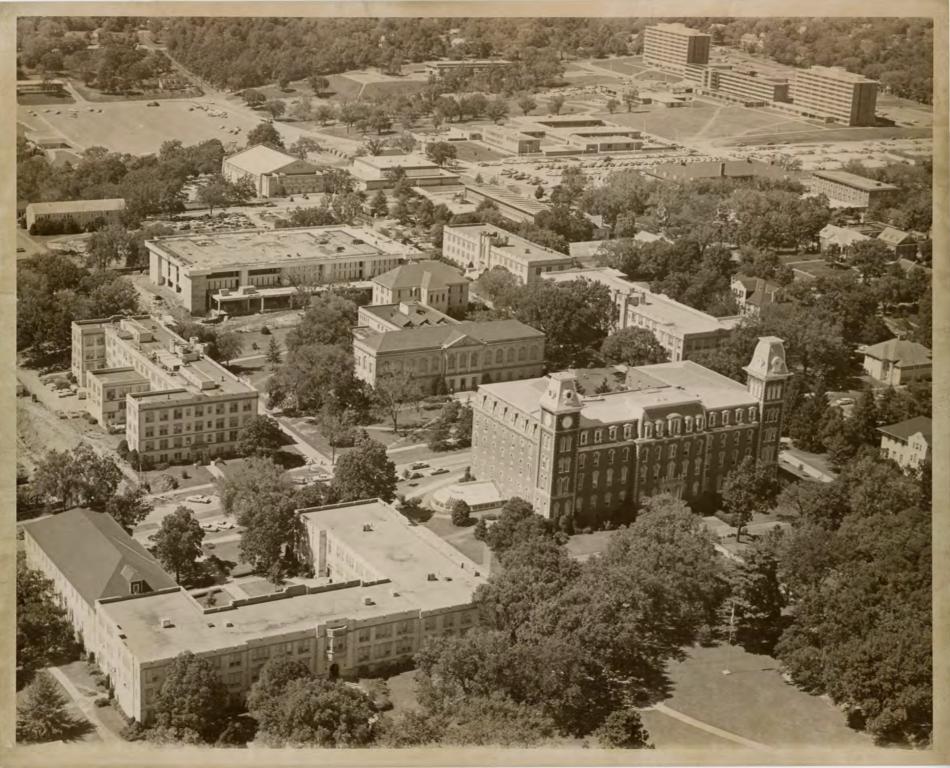
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT STATE THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK S Arkansas NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES COUNTY washington PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM FOR NPS USE OMINS (Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph) S NPS Nun ENTRY NUMBER 70.6.03.000 Z 1. NAME Title: 0 COMMON: Old Main AND/OR HISTORIC: University Hall, University of Arkansas LOCATION STREET AND NUMBER: Loc. Arkansas Avenue CITY OR TOWN: 0 Fayetteville, Arkansas STATE: CODE COUNTY: CODE Arkansas 03 Washington PHOTO REFERENCE Z PHOTO CREDIT: DATE OF PHOTO: ш EGATIVE FILED AT: Editorial Services ш University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Ark, 72701 4. IDENTIFICATION DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Ground level view, looking at southeast sorner of bldg.

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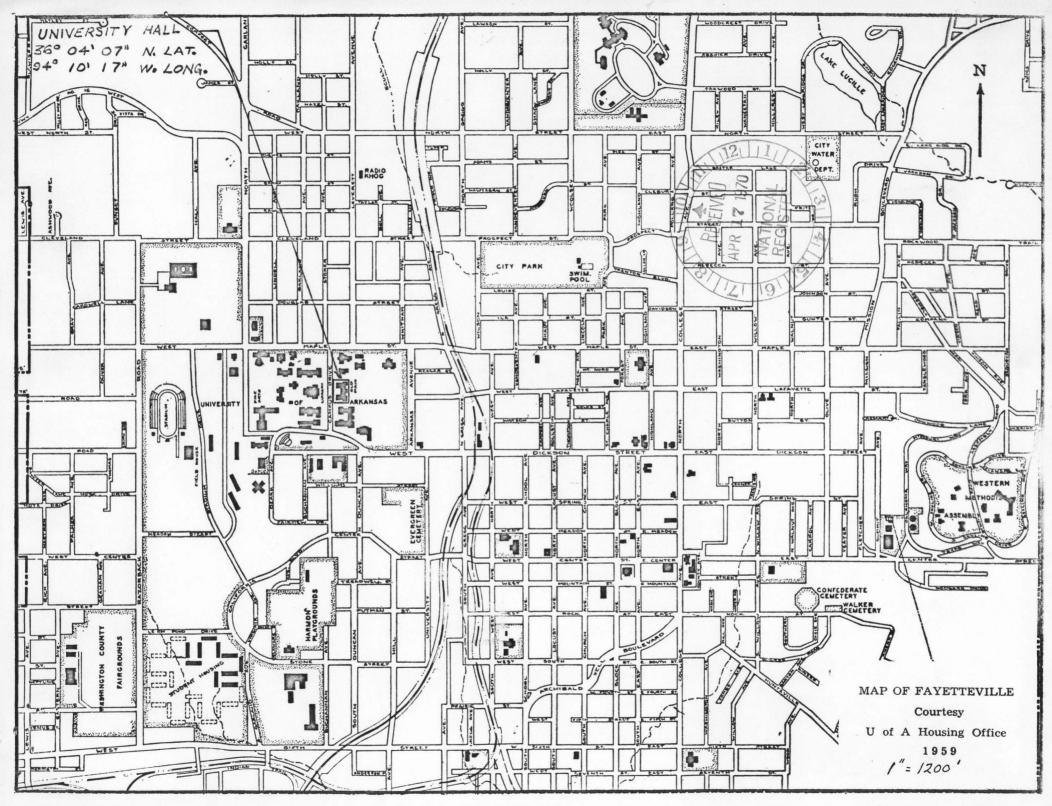
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Form 10-301 (Dec. 1968) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

STATE	
Arkansas	
Washington	
FOR NPS USE O	NLY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
10.6.03.0001	1/1/1/1

(Type all entries - attach to o	r enclose with map)	10.6.03.0	
1. NAME		170000	ur yspic
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AND/OR HISTORIC: University Hall,	University of Ar	kansas	
2. LOCATION			
street and number: Arkansas Aver	nue		
CITY OR TOWN: Fayetteville			
STATE:	CODE COUNTY		CODE
Arkansas	03	Washington	143
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Missing Core Documentation

Property Name Old Main, University of	County, State Washington	Reference Number 70000131
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Nomination		
Photographs		
X USGS Map (Non-USGS	Map Present)	

Ild Main

Pulasti Co, ack.

Washington 1130-IIR Dr. John M. Peterson Executive Director Arkansas Flanning Commission Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 Dear Dr. Peterson: We are pleased to inform you that the historic properties listed on the enclosure have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Senators John L. McClellan and J. W. Fulbright and the appropriate Representatives have also been notified. Flease 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

> > HR

Enclosure		JUN 1 5 1970
Entered in the B	ational Register	
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cc:		
RGaminle: mm	6/10/70	RASTC PILE REPAIRED TO

Properties added to the National Register of Historical Places

ARKANSAS

Angelo Marre House (Villa Marre) Little Rock, Arkansas
Old Main Fayetteville, Arkansas

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

01/01/9

Mon. John P. Messerschaidt Mouse of Representatives Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hammerschmidt:

We are pleased to inform you that the Old Main in Payetheville,
Arkansas, has been nominated by the State Limison Officer appointed
by the Governor for the implementation of the Mational Historic
Preservation Progres in Arkansas and has been entered into the
Mational Register of Mistoric Places. Senators John L. McClellan
and J. W. Fulbright have also been provided with this information.
By copy of this letter, the State Limison Officer, Dr. John M. Peterson,
Emecutive Director, Arkansas Planning Commission, Little Fock, Arkansas
72201, has likewise been notified. A leaflet explaining the Mational
Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

(SED) FRANK E MARRISON

Agling Tirector

Enclosure

JUN 1 5 1970

Entered in the Sational Register

Dept 2

Dr. John M. Peterson, Executive Director, Arkansas Planning Commission, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Director, Southeast Region

LL-Mr. Melvin T HR RGemble:um H F RETAINED FILE

1130-3E

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

Dear Senator McClellan:

We are pleased to inform you that the historic properties listed on the enclosure have been nominated by the State Lisison Officer appointed by the Governor for the implementation of the Mational Ristoric Preservation Progress in Arkanses and have been entered into the Rational Register of Mistoric Places. Senator J. W. Fulbright and the appropriate Representatives have also been provided with this information. By copy of this letter, the State Liaison Officer, Dr. John M. Peterson, Executive Director, Arbaness Flanning Commission, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201, has likewise been notified. A leaflet faining the Mational Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) FRANK E. HARRISON

acting Deputition

Inclosures

JUN 1 5 1970

Intered in the Bational Register

ce:

Dr. John M. Peterson, Executive Director, Arkansas Planning Commission, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201,

Duplicate letter sent to:

Hon. J. W. Fulbright United States Senate Washington, D. C.

Director, Southeast Region LL-Mr. Melvin T

Properties added to the Betionel Register of Historical Places

ARKABSAS

Angelo Narre House (Villa Marre)

old Main

Little Book, Arkanoss

Fayetteville, Arkansas

Dr. John M. Peterson Executive Director Arkansas Planning Commission Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

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Sincerely yours,

/S/ Ernest Allen Connally

Ernest Allen Connally Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Enclosure

JUN 1 5 1970

Entered in the National Register

cc:

RGamble:mm

6/10/70

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

Properties added to the National Register of Historical Places ARKANSAS

Angelo Marre House (Villa Marre) Little Rock, Arkansas

Old Main

Fayetteville, Arkansas

JUN 24 1970 Washington So., Chamber 6/15/70

all.

J. Granson 9/9

June 1979

June 1979

H30-HR

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

02/07/

Hon. John P. Hammerschmidt House of Representatives Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hammerschmidt:

We are pleased to inform you that the Old Main in Fayetteville,

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. John M. Peterson,

Executive Director, Arkansas Planning Commission, Little Rock, Arkansas

72201, has likewise been notified. A leaflet explaining the National

Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) FRANK E, HARRISON

Acting Deput Director

ofe. Melvi

Inclosure

Entered in the Mational Register_

JUN 1 5 1970

cc: Dr. John M. Peterson, Executive Director, Arkansas Planning Commission, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Director, Southeast Region

J. W. FULBRIGHT, ARK., CHAIRMAN

JOHN SPARKMAN, ALA.
MIKE MANSFIELD, MONT.
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FRANK CHURCH, IDAHO
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JACOB K. JAVITS, N.Y.

CARL MARCY, CHIEF OF STAFF ARTHUR M. KUHL, CHIEF CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510
July 21, 1970

The Director National Park Service Department of the Interior Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Sir:

The communication attached is selfexplanatory, and I would appreciate your providing me information which would be helpful in responding properly to the writer.

Sincerely yours,

J. W. Fulbright

JWF :pw

CL- 6609

July 1, 1970

Mr. Frank E. Harrison
Acting Deputy Director
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Harrison:

Senator Fulbright has informed us that the nomination of Old Main Building, Fayetteville campus of the University, has been approved by you for inclusion in the National Register. This nomination was by action of the State Committee which functions under the Arkansas Planning Commission.

We are excited about this development, particularly since the University will be celebrating its Centennial in 1971. Old Main is the significant symbol for those many years of educational services to the nation, the State and the region.

We are aware that the designation in the National Register is a condition precedent in qualifying for a federal grant under the National Historic Preservation Act. There is important restoration reconstruction which must be undertaken, primarily to the interior, if this significant building is to be preserved. Therefore, at the appropriate time we shall apply to the Arkansas Planning Commission for a grant from federal funds.

Because the nomination came from the State Committee, rather than from formal action of the University itself, we are in need of information about the obligations which may attach by reason of inclusion in the National Register and by reason of a federal grant for use in restoration. We would appreciate receiving a copy of your guidelines or regulations containing this information.

Sincerely,

David W. Mullins President

DWM/km

cc: Senator J. W. Fulbright

Dr. John Peterson

JUL 1 3 1970

1134-HR

REDAINED IN

Dr. David W. Mullins President University of Arkansas Fayetteville, Arkansas

Dear Dr. Mullins:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the status of "Old Main" at the University of Arkansas as regards the National Register of Historic Places.

Inclusion of "Old Main" in the National Register places no obligation on the University itself in maintaining the building. The only "obligatory clause" is found in Section 105 of Public Law 69-655, which is underlined in the enclosed green brockure. This clause only applies when Federal funds and/or licensing are involved. As long as no Federal involvement is present, the University may do as it wishes with "Old Main." However, if the building becomes so altered that the qualities for which it was placed in the Register are no longer present, it may be removed from Register listing at the discretion of the National Park Service. Insamuch as this building is the symbol of the University and since its restoration is contemplated, the possibility of its integrity being lost seems remote indeed.

We are also enclosing a copy of our "Grants Guide" manual which deals in part with project restorations, administration and obligations of grant recipients. Chapters 4, 5, and 6 are particularly pertinent to the points you raise. Here again, restrictions on the University would be minimal, the main requirement being that the preservation or restoration work must have a demonstrable public benefit. In that the building is in State ownership and is accessible to the public, this requirement would, we presume, be met with ease.

We appreciate your interest in historic preservation and wish you well in your efforts. Please contact us if we may be of further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

/S/ Ernest Allen Connally

Ernest Allen Connally Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

M. Reynolds, Chairman, State Review Committee, Arkansas History, Old State House, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 w/cy. inc.

SAChembers mm

7/10/70

Commission, Old State H. Mreptor, Southeast Reg Twycy, inc.

George

Enclosure

E. Connally UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FAYETTEVILLE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT July 1, 1970 Mr. Frank E. Harrison Acting Deputy Director National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior Washington, D.C. 20240 Dear Mr. Harrison: Senator Fulbright has informed us that the nomination of Old Main Building, Fayetteville campus of the University, has been approved by you for inclusion in the National Register. This nomination was by action of the State Committee which functions under the Arkansas Planning Commission. We are excited about this development, particularly since the University will be celebrating its Centennial in 1971. Old Main is the significant symbol for those many years of educational services to the nation, the State and the region. We are aware that the designation in the National Register is a condition precedent in qualifying for a federal grant under the National Historic Preservation Act. There is important restoration reconstruction which must be undertaken, primarily to the interior, if this significant building is to be preserved. Therefore, at the appropriate time we shall apply to the Arkansas Planning Commission for a grant from federal funds. Because the nomination came from the State Committee, rather than from formal action of the University itself, we are in need of information about the obligations which may attach by reason of inclusion in the National Register and by reason of a federal grant for use in restoration. We would appreciate receiving a copy of your guidelines or regulations containing this information. Sincerely, DWM/km Senator J. W. Fulbright Dr. John Peterson JUL 7 1970

S. A. Chambers 8/3
W. Morragh 8/3
E. Connolly 8/4
Theory 8/10

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MIO-HR

AUG 1 7 1970

Hom. J. W. Pulbright United States Senate Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Fulbright:

Thank you for your recent inquiry in behalf of Mr. David W. Mullias concerning the Old Main Building at the Payetteville Campus of the University of Arkansas.

We are enclosing a copy of our response to Mr. Melline, which was in answer to the original of the copy which you received.

We appreciate your inquiry and trust that the capy of our response to Mr. Mullins and its enclosures will suffice for your purposes.

dincerely yours,

(Sgd) Thomas F. Flynn
DEPUTY

Reclosures

cc: Dr. George M. Reynolds Chairman, State Review Committee Arkansas History Commission Old State House Little Rock, Arkansas 72201) w/c of incoming

CL, Mr. Holley)
Dir., SE Region)
LL, Mr. Melvin)
T)
M)
HR, Mr. Chambers)

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

CL 6609

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FNP:SAChambers:gcm 8/10/70

JUL 28 1970

Hon. J. W. Fulbright United States Senate Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Fulbright:

We are pleased to acknowledge your inquiry in behalf of Mr. David W. Mullins concerning the Old Main Building, Fayetteville campus of the University of Arkansas.

We appreciate your interest in this matter and will provide you a reply at our earliest opportunity.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) GEORGE B. HARTZOG, JR.

Director

FNP:TGWood:gcm 7/28/70

ERNIE DEANE

910 Arlington Terrace Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701

March 28,1972

Hon. John Paul Hammerschmidt, United States Congress Washington, D.C. APR 3 100

IC --- VED

Dear Congressman Hammerschmidt:

Please note my absolute opposition to the plan to obtain money from the federal government to "preserve" the historic building at the University of Arkansas known as "Old Main," said "preservation" to entail the gutting of the building and the construction inside its walls of an entirely new, "modernized" building.

Preservation of Old Main in virtually its original state, yes, for this truly would be preservation in its proper sense of one of the most historically important buildings in Arkansas and in the Southwest. But to call the gutting of the building "preservation" and to use federal funds to accomplish this phony "preservation" is to my mind unjustified and perhaps even morally dishonest.

I have written two articles on the subject for the Sunday Springdale News, and am enclosing copies.

I simply do not believe that our government should be making federal funds available to "preservation" projects when the truth of the matter is the project in question is a destruction project. Surely the intention of the federal legislation concerning preservation of historic buildings and sites was actually to preserve and not to destroy or seriously damage them.

Those of us who oppose this Old Main plan are doing so rather late in the game, because we knew little or nothing of the plan. Apparently study has been under way for over two years in secret or semi-secret activity.

Sincerely yours,

Die Wear

Ernie Deane. . (Springdale, Ark., Sunday News 3/5/72) The Gutting of Old Main

If I could compose and sing an Ozark folk song like Jimmy Driftwood can, I'd start one something like this:

They're gonna gut Old Main, boys.

Down at the Univer-si-tee:

They're gonna gut Old Main, boys,

And save some money, see?

What sets me off on this ballad is word that the University of Arkansas is fixing to tear out the innards of its most historic building. The original walls and towers of the 1870's will be kept, but a completely "modern" building is to be constructed inside the walls. The rationalization is that it'll cost less money to tear out the insides, and rebuild, than it will to modernize what's already there. Maybe so, although some comparative cost estimates might be enlightening.

More pertinent than money, however, is a point that concerns a lot of us old grads. It's this: You cannot put a dollars-and-cents value on sentiment, or tradition, or on history. Without these, no university is worthy of the name. These facts too often are ignored by educational institutions, city and county governments, churches, and chambers of commerce when "progress" is the action cry. So down come the old homes and courthouses and churches and school buildings. And the generations which will follow us will be denied all possibility of seeing, or feeling. what the past was really like. The heritage our descendants are entitled to enjoy has been deliberately destroyed.

Not everything old can be preserved, but surely "progress" should mean the preservation of some of the good things of earlier times. Old Main with new innards will be no more the real Old Main than a stuffed moose in a museum is the real animal. The skin might be the same, but the heart and soul will be gone.

University Hall, as this venerable building was originally named, is one of our state's most significant structures. When completed nearly a century ago, it was the largest man-made building in Arkansas. It gave visible proof that higher education for poor men's children had at last become a reality. But, it was more than that. It was a monument to the imagination, ingenuity and skill of Northwest Arkansas' people.

Some 260,000 pounds of iron went into Old Main's insides. Every pound of it had been fabricated far away, and then boated up the Arkansas River, and then hauled over the Bostons in ox wagons. Where glass for several hundred beautiful windows was manufactured I've never known, but it came from far away, too, over the mountains. More than two and a half million bricks were fired from Fayetteville clay. The great timbers that hold the building together were cut from Ozarks forests, sawed into shape at the famous Van Winkle Mill near War Eagle, and hauled through the hills by oxen. Brown sandstone for the basement footings and walls was quarried just a few hundred feet from the build-

ing site. Who knows where 250 kegs of "square" nails came from? They might have been hammered out by local blacksmiths. Truly, Old Main's insides have historical and sentimental value, and they've functioned well for a mighty long time.

But a building like this is more than materials. It should be a monument to the men and women who taught and studied in its hallowed halls. Since 1875, graduates have gone out by the thousands, to serve Arkansas and the nation-governors and members of Congress, educators and scientists, journalists, preachers, princes of commerce and industry, housewives and heroes. Bless em. all. . . "thy children departed. far from the land where their footsteps have trod."

The venerable building needs fixing up, no question about that. The question would seem to be, what really in a long-range sense is the best way to fix it? Some of us don't agree at all that the best way is to rip out and rebuild. But the word is, the decision has already been made. And so back to the folksong and a closing verse:

Say goodbye to Old Main, boys, Down at our Uni-ver-si-tee.

She's gonna be gutted and ruint, boys,

Her likes again you'll never see.

And maybe have a little background music of fiddles, banjos and gittars, please. Keep it low, slow and sad, as belittin the theme. JOHN PAUL HAMMERSCHMIDT , THIRD DISTRICT, ARKANSAS

HOME ADDRESS: HARRISON, ARKANSAS

WASHINGTON ADDRESS: 437 CANNON BUILDING WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515 PHONE: 225-4301

Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

April 4, 1972

COMMITTEES: PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEES: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INVESTIGATIONS AND OVERSIGHT ROADS FLOOD CONTROL RIVERS AND HARBORS

VETERANS' AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEES: COMPENSATION AND PENSION HOSPITALS HOUSING

Mr. Robert M. Utley, Director Office of Archeology and Historical Preservation National Park Service Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Utley:

Plans are developing for the preservation of an historic building on the University of Arkansas campus.

Some opposition has arisen to the plan because it would call for the modernization of the inside of the building while preserving the outside.

Attached is a letter which speaks to the crux of the problem, and I would appreciate your response to me so that I may assure the constituent that government policies on preservation are not being violated by the plans to preserve "Old Main."

With much appreciation, I am

Yours sincerely,

Hammerschmidt

Member of Congress

ЈРН:сја Enclosure

Dictated from District Office

Audy 4/17

DRAFT FBSarles:ear April 14, 1972

Hon. John Paul Hammerschmidt House of Representatives Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hammerschmidt:

Thank you for your recent letter on behalf of Mr. Ernie Deane concerning "Old Main" on the campus of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

We are not aware of any proposed Federal funds for a project of this type at the University of Arkansas. The grants-in-aid program authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (80 Stat. 915), as amended, provides matching grants for historic preservation and the enclosed "Fact Sheet" describes the grants-in-aid program. The State of Arkansas has made no application for a matching grant for "Old Main" under this program, however.

As a National Register property, "Old Main" is afforded a measure of protection against adverse effect from any Federal or federally funded undertaking under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This protection is discussed in the section entitled "The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation" in the enclosed folder, "The National Register of Historic Places."

Preservation matters within the purview of the National Historic Preservation Act generally are handled on the State Level through the State Liaison Officer for historic preservation. The Arkansas State Liaison Officer is listed on the second page of the "Fact Sheet."

We appreciate your interest in historic preservation.

Sincerely yours,

Director

Enclosures

cc:

Mr. William E. Henderson, Director, Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, State Capitol, Room 149, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 w/cy inc. Director, Southwest Region w/cy inc. LS-Mr. Melvin I-Mr. Winge HR-w/cy inc.

WHITE HOUSE, CONGRESSIONAL, OR SECRETARIAL CORRESPONDENCE

TO: HR

FROM: Division of Legislative Services (LS)

SUBJECT: Preservation-Southwest

CONTROL NUMBER:

SUSPENSE DATE: April 17,1972

The attached correspondence is forwarded for the preparation of a draft reply. In the event the above suspense date cannot be met, please furnish me an interim draft reply on or before that suspense date, and include reasons for the delay and an estimate as to the date a final reply may be expected.

All draft replies must be surnamed by the Chief of the Division preparing the draft. It will be optional with that Division Chief as to whether his Assistant Director should also surname the draft.

Ira Whitlock

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PLEASE LEAVE THIS MEMO ATTACHED TO THE CORRESPONDENCE

WASO-31 (6/71) USDI - NPS

Hon. John Paul Hammerschmidt House of Representatives Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hammerschmidt:

We are pleased to acknowledge your inquiry in behalf of Mr. Ernie Deane concerning preservation of a historic building on the University of Arkansas campus.

We appreciate your interest in this matter and will provide you a reply at our earliest opportunity.

Sincerely yours,

George B. Hartzog, Jr.

Director

cc: FNP:CRBraxton:dvt:4-10-72 LS)

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FAYETTEVILLE 72701

DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM

April 23,1972

HH

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AHH

Mr. George B. Hartzog, pirector National Park Service Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hartzog:

Your letter of April 11,1972, to Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt of the Third Arkensas District, concerning my communication to the congressman on the subject of the preservation of this University's most historically significant building, has been forwarded to me by Rep. Hammerschmidt.

The building in question was completed in 1875 and is correctly named University Hall, but from long student and faculty tradition it is always referred to as "Old Main." In the field of higher education in this state, and more particularly in the land grant college picture nationally, it is one of the most important structures west of the Mississippi River. It has been properly designated a national historic site, or structure, and your Service correctly is considering financial assistance to restore and preserve it. However, there is a highly unpleasant fact with which you possibly are not familiar: This University at the moment is moving towards the complete tearing out and destruction of the entire interior of "Old Main," and the construction within the original walls of a new building of five floors (the original has only four), said new building being no more like the original than the Lincoln Memorial is like Honest Abe's boyhood cabin.

Not only as a graduate of this institution, and as a member of the University faculty, but as a taxpayer I object most strongly to both the destruction of this historic structure but also to the waste of federal funds on new construction under the guise of "historical restoration." That is why I wrote Mr. Hæmmerschmidt, and that is why he wrote to you. Surely the 100% redesigning and reconstruction of the interior of a historic structure, leaving only the original skin or perhaps only a part of the original skin, is not the sort of "historic restoration and preservation" that the government has in mind for such buildings.

I find myself in open opposition to the administration of this University. This is a most unpleasant and uncomfortable position in which to be, indeed. But I have worked for years trying to help persuade the people of this state to restore and preserve a number of historic buildings, and have enjoyed some degree of success, and I cannot sit silently by now and watch my own alma mater waste federal and state funds to gut and ruin Arkansas's most significant building in the field of public education.

Enclosed are some press articles on the subject for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours.

Sincerely yours, Ernie Deane Asst. Professor

Director, Southwest Region

Hon. John Paul Harmerschmidt House of Aspresentatives Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hasmerschmidt:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of Kr. Ernie Deane concerning "Old Main" on the campus of the University of Arkansas at Payetteville.

We are not aware of any proposed Federal funds for a project of this type at the University of Arkaness. The grants-in-sid progress authorized by the Mational Mistoric Preservation Act of 1986 (30 Stat. 915), as spended, provides matching grants for historic preservation. The enclosed fact sheet describes the grants-in-aid progress. The State of Arkaness has made no application for a matching grant for "Old Main" under this progress.

As a Mational Register property, "Old Main" is afforded a measure of protection against adverse effect from any Federal or federally funded undertaking under Section 105 of the Mational Historic Preservation Act. This protection is discussed in the section entitled "The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation" in the enclosed Tolder, "The Mational Register of Historic Flaces."

Preservation matters within the purview of the National Historic Preservation Act generally are handled on the State level through the State Limison Officer for historic preservation. The Arkansas State Dimison Officer is listed on the second page of the fact sheet.

We appreciate your interest in historic preservation.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Robert M. Utley

Director

Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Enclosures

J. INGLE/10/72

Brotfor

Washington

Washington

JUL 14 1972

H34-PHR

Mr. Ernie Deane Assistant Professor Department of Journalism University of Arkansas Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701

Dear Mr. Deane:

Thank you for your letter to Director Hartzog concerning "Old Main" on the campus of the University of Arkansas.

We have no knowledge of any Federal funding for this project and have received no request for funds under our program of matching grants (see enclosed information sheets).

Buildings on the National Register such as "Old Main" are afforded a measure of protection against adverse effects from federally funded projects by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (80 Stat. 915). A copy of the act is also enclosed.

More information on this, as well as on our grants program, can be obtained through the State Liaison Officer who is listed on the enclosed fact sheet.

We wish to thank you for the interest you have shown in historic preservation.

Sincerely yours.

Robert M. Utley

Director

Enclosures

Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

ce:ce:

Mr. William E. Henderson, Director, Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, State Capitol, Room 149, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 w/c inc. Mr. Jack Porter, Administrator, Arkansas Historical Commission, Old State House, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 w/c inc. Director, Southwest Region w/c inc.

I, Mr. Winge

PHH 45 w/c inc. PHR-w/c inc.

JBINGLE: mb: 7/7/72

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN PHR

Opposition Grows to Old Main 'Gutting'

FAYETTEVILLE — NEWS columnist Ernie Deane's efforts to waylay the gutting of Old Main on the University of Arkansas campus should get an added impetus next week—provided administrative arguments for the building's "renovation" don't quell emotional repugnance to the plan.

The Washington County Historical Society Thursday will hear both sides of the argument spawned by a column written for the Sunday NEWS by Deane, a UA journalism professor whose association with the University spans some 40 years.

Dr. Dwain Manske, president of the Historical Society and an English professor at the UA, told the NEWS today that spokesmen for both sides will be heard

(From the Springdale, Ark., Daily News, 4/14/72)

at the Thursday meeting of the Society's board.

Deane's column read in part, "What sets me off...is word that the University of Arkansas is fixing to tear out the innards of its most historic building. The original walls and towers of the 1870's will be kept, but a completely "modern" building is to be constructed inside the walls...

"Not everything old can be preserved, but surely 'progress' should mean the preservation of some of the good things of earlier times. Old Main with new innards will be no more the real Old Main than a stuffed moose in a museum is the real animal. The skin might be the same, but the heart and soul will be gone..."

Dr. Manske anticipates a resolution will be passed by the Society opposing the gutting of Old Main. He indicated he had received a unanimous response from board members when they were polled about the question. However, they will hear both arguments.

The University may not be fully committed to the renovation plan, Manske told the NEWS. He indicated that research is being done now on the status of plans. And he believes there's an "excellent chance" the gutting can be waylayed.

Dr. Manske noted that Old Main has been listed in the National Registry of Historic Places. The University, in a response to Deane's initial column on the Old Main matter, noted: "A substantial part of the financing of the renovation will come from the federal government under legislation specifically designed to preserve historic buildings." The University release further noted that to secure the federal financing, the UA was able to obtain the national designation of Old Main as a historic place. Dr. Manske noted that there is a difference "in restoration and remodelling" and suggested that the federal government might need to take a closer look at the proposal.

I

Not only will the Historical Society become involved soon in the controversy surrounding the landmark building, but in the University's April edition of the alumni magazine, UA alums will be given information from both the institution's standpoint and Deane. A spokesman for the alumni office said today that basically the administrative response will be that released after Deane's first column. Deane said today that he will appeal to the pride and sentiment of the 9.000 alums who receive the magazine.

Already administrators have received some alumni response and the magazine articles will surely attract more. One recent graduate, a coed now working in New Orleans, wrote the University president, ". . . It's hard to explain exactly what the UA means to an Alum. . . I grew to love the school very much-the students, my sorority, the journalism professors-all became a big part of my life. They still are. Old Main in some mystical way symbolizes all this to me. To tear it down would be a pity."

The University plans don't call for the building to be torn down. The renovation is confined to the inside while the exterior appearance is to be restored similar to that of the original Old Main. The following article from the Northwest Arkansas Times, Fayetteville. was published April 15,1972, and was headlined "Threat to Old Main Troubles Many."

TIMES Staff Writer

A pair of towers reach majestically skyward, standing sharp and clear above the treetops in the crisp Ozark Mountain air — but for how long?

For almost a century these towers and the gracious, beloved building they adorn have stood as a symbol to thousands of students who attended and graduated from the University of Arkansas where Old Main is the oldest building on campus. But what of future gener-

ations?

Will freshmen no longer stand in slight awe as they gaze at the magnificent east doors; will they no longer have ! opportunity to look out the graceful windows and get a small taste of yesteryear when the people of Fayetteville and Washington County outbid all other areas of the state and brought the state University to town?

Those people of a century ago sought something of which they and the state could be proud. They chose one of the prettiest areas of a pretty town to build their school. They wanted something that would last.

Harrison Hale in his History of the University of Arkansas says: "Old Main stands for a faith that was supreme - it is still 'radiant with the transfiguring beauty of age'. . .for decades it has been a 'creator of a sentiment that is precious'."

Now, University officials have decided that drastic changes must be made. But confusion reigns as to just what is planned for the building.

In a news release printed in the TIMES on March 16, Minor Wallace, UA coordinator of construction and a member of the Use Planning Committee, was quoted as saying all interior floors and partitions would be replaced, and that a new elevator system, new heating and air conditioning system, etc. were planned.

In a telephone interview thisweek, however, Wallace said that plans for the interior are "still under study." He admit-He admitted there was a possibility of adding another floor, which apparently would necessitate substantial alterations in the exterior of the building despite earlier statements that follow-ing renovation its "exterior appearance will be more similar to that of the original Old Main than is the present exterior."

Calling proposals a "fairly authentic and expensive renovation" and insisting that the

By DORRIS HENDRICKSON. | building "MAY look exactly like the period in which it was designed," Wallace was unable to outline specific plans for the building, which might put to rest anxieties of alumni and others who fear the building is slated for drastic change or worse.

Anticipated expenditure is some \$4 million. According to UA officials a substantial part of the financing will come from the federal government under legislation specifically designed to preserve historic buildings.

These funds are earmarked for preservation and restoration of buildings and sites included in the National Register of Historic Sites. Old Main has this designation.

According to Webster, restoration is defined as an act of restoring; a bringing back to a former position or condition. Preservation, Webster says, is the act of preserving. Neither definition comes close to those suggestions which UA officials have so far made public.

In an effort to assess public sentiment on changes in Old Main, the TIMES contacted several of the candidates for the state legislature from this area and also spoke to Ted Boswell, candidate for the U.S. Senate.

and to Sen. J.W. Fulbright (D-Ark.)

Senator Fulbright, a graduate and former president of the University of Arkansas, said that (like the rest of the public) he is not fully informed on remodeling plans.

"But," he added, "I hope and trust that any alterations will preserve the character and tradition of this historical building, which is the symbol of the University to so many alumni and citizens of Arkansas."

Boswell was adamant in his response: The building should be maintained, he asserted. "It would be a disaster not to maintain the integrity of the building. It is a symbol to graduates and I want to see it maintained.

"I am a strong believer in preservation of historical buildings and the integrity of Old Main must be maintained regardless of the need for reconstruction.

The sentiment of most those questioned showed a belief that the building should be retained in as near its original form as possible. Many agreed that some interior changes have to be made, but most were in accord that these changes surely could be made without destroying the integrity and tradi-

tion of the building.

Some of the comments from candidates were:

"I am for keeping it as near the original as possible. . . It is a landmark and has a lot of feeling for a lot of us (UA graduates). It IS the University. It needs to be retained just for its historical and sentimental value." Bill Ramsey of Prairie Grove, candidate for

state representative.
"I am a great believer in historical tradition and would be disappointed if Old Main were destroyed. I certainly feel the interior should be made safe . ., but I would not, under any circumstances, want the exterior changed or done away with." Phil Phillips, state representative candidate.

"Old Main is certainly a landmark and should be preserved. I want to keep even the interior the way it is if possible." State Sen. Morriss

"I am in favor of preserving the historical integrity of any building or any place that has such significance as I think Old Main does. I'm not satisfied with what the University has proposed." Boyce Davis, candidate for state representative.

FAVORS PRESERVATION "I'd like to see it preserved in its present state as a land-mark and for tradition." Richard Hoyt, candidate for state representative.

'I would like to see it left as nearly as can be in the original style consistent with protection of the structure of the build-David Burleson, candiing."

date for state senator.
"It would be very bad to
strip the interior of the building and remodel it into modern rooms, but neither should it be made into a sterile monument. I would hope that the renovation would encompass much the same idea as the proposal for the Ridge House - that it be restored as nearly as possible to its original decor, but at the same time be kept functional and kept in use by the University." Dr. John Sugg, candidate for state senator.

"If they can keep it basically as it is, I see no harm in renovation," State Rep. Rudy Moore Jr.

"I'm in favor of keeping it if it is economically possible. State Rep. Charles Stewart.

State Rep. Hugh Kincaid declined comment, asking for time to study the situation.

Ernie Deane, UA journalism instructor who brought plans for changes in the building to public attention, said Monday that he has received telephone calls and letters from old ladies, former students and

others throughout the state and from as far away as New Orleans, expressing a desire to restore and not change the

TRAVELER PROTESTS
The Arkansas Traveler, the student newspaper, came out against the proposals.

In an article by Cecilia Croft. its managing editor, the Traveler answered point by point the reasons for renovation - and answered them ably, quoting various authentic sources.

Miss Croft says the opening lines of the Arkansas Alma Mater - "Pure as the dawn on the brow of thy beauty' was written about Old Main and asks the question "Why \$4 million to ruin this?"

Many of those questioned said they did not understand exactly what the University proposed to do, and feared that interior renovation of the building is a term being used to hide plans for demolition.

Scare talk by UA officials about the safety of the building has prompted these fears. As one Fayetteville resident said. once they get the intrior out. it is conceivable that they will suddently decide that the exterior walls are unsafe and down they will come."

Perhaps if UA officials were candid about proposals to change the building, showing if and how it would be altered. the furor would be quieted.

Until such information made public, alumni and others will continue to fear that the administration is really planning to destroy the beloved old building.



Expediency Of Bad Taste

Ernie Deane, the old Arkansas Traveler, can't quite remember as far back as when they built Old Main, but he knows pretty well how it was done, having researched the project personally. Deane, who now serves the discipline of communications and journalistic science at the University, is currently crossing swords with the UA's administration (make that pens instead of swords) on the projected "renovation" of Old Main's interior.

Aside from the historical interests involved, the clash of values represented by the Old Main project makes it an interesting case. In its way, it is microcosmic of other modern adventures such as Urban Renewal: the flight to the suburbs, and the high price (and fashion) of antiques on today's market.

PROF. DEANE launched his campaign a couple of weeks ago with a column in the Springdale newspaper. He reported how materials had been assembled from a variety of sources for the large and complex structure that was the UA's first building. He concluded that it would be sacreligious to gut the old lady and rebuild her innards in modern motif (including an additional floor)

That column caught statewide attention through the medium of the Associated Press. The University administration then responded with a lengthy "white paper" on the amount of academic research and planning that had furnished the eventual plan for renovation.

Included in the UA report were such considerations as the inadequacy of elevator service: the danger of certain heavy segments of the University museum crashing down from the fourth floor: the inability of iron columns to withstand intense heat; dirtifled sections of between floors space; and a lack of access for handicapped persons.

The University official position added that the original building was equipped with gas lights, which are no longer there, so that "restoration" is not actually in issue.

Prof. Deane counters this with the outrage of a close personal zealot: "It's hardly appropriate for an institution of higher learning to employ scare tactics to justify an unjustifiable action," he declares. ". The Old Main 'renovation,' he says, ". . is no more a renovation than rape is a gesture of love. ."

STRONG WORDS; strong sentiment. Prof. Deane, of course, speaks from the vantage point of great intimacy with the landmark building on the University campus. He was attending classes and working in the basement of Old Main before the current crop of "renovators" knew much more about the UA than what part of the state Fayetteville is located in. Even today Prof.
Deane can walk through the ground floor of the old building and make contact with memories of Charlie Stone's book store, astronomy classes of Dr. Harding, Uncle Walt's combination sports publicity and journalism department operations, and maybe "Bull" Hastings wetting down his guitar so it wouldn't rattle so much when he treated an English class to some Sandbergian muses.

With Prof. Deane, in o the r words, there is a wealth of nostalgia connected to the halls and walls, as well as the exterior of Old Main. It is his contention that a bulk of the UA's alums, given a choice, would prefer to preserve the old building, too.

There's an additional argument, to our way of thinking, which isn't answered or even acknowledged in the UA's official response to objections. Our chief concern has to do with what would strike us as a lack of intellectual integrity if the campus' most venerated, and one of the state's most historic structures should be reduced to the sterile conformity of our "modern classroom" concept. There is a dignity to the wide halls and high ceilings of classrooms in Old Main. And there's a stirring inspiration in the splendid views afforded by (From Northwest Arkansas Times, Fayetteville. April 1,1972)

The Author of this Article is A Nephew of Senator J. WM. Fulbricht OF ARKANSAS

its generous expanse of windows to the east. These qualities are as much a part of the building's character and value as are its towers and time-worn brick.

Economic expediency is important, we know. Today's growing awareness of the aesthetic values of old things—furniture, bottles, books, cars and buildings—is in part a response to the spiritual chill of today's "expedient" architecture. Redoing the inside of Old Main may be the expedient thing to do, but it would represent, too, a monument to today's ungracious tastes.

SOUTHWEST TIMES RECORD

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Southwest Times Record-Fort Smith, Ark. Wednesday, April 12,

Old Main as a 'Forever Landmark'

For generation after generation of University of Arkansas students, "Old Main" has become a nostalgic memory for the rest of their lives.

The massive old building now has been a landmark for almost a century of students—and for travellers, who see its majestic outlines atop the hill as they approach Fayetteville.

In it, the foundation of knowledge was laid for countless outstanding careers in Arkansas—and all over the nation, for that matter. It has become a tradition in Arkansas education.

So it's entirely understandable that a lot of people are perturbed by reports of plans to "improve" "Old Main", making it more compatible with the needs of today's education.

The word has been that the original walls and towers of the building would be preserved, but that the interior would be torn out and rebuilt into a new layout of corridors, rooms, etc.

The preservation of the walls and towers has been welcome news, but even the plans to entirely change the interior have drawn bitter protests from numerous sources.

They want repairs made where necessary but not a redesigning and rebuilding of the entire interior.

One can understand their position. Few buildings in Arkansas are so bound up with the history and progress of the state as "Old Main". In a time when the taxpayers and foundations are spending vast sums to "restore" ancient landmarks which have fallen into decay, it certainly would seem that such a remaining one as the ancient "University veteran" should be preserved.

It should be no problem to get an engineering survey to establish safety and, if needed, to show where strengthening is needed to assure it. And with that established, what earthly justification could there be for making any changes in a structure so tied up with the early background of the state?

We believe the university officials should give serious consideration to simply a renovation job, where needed—and the preservation of this tribute to the determination of early Arkansans that education always would be within the reach of theirs and succeeding generations.

There should be no basic change in the structure that isn't proved to be absolutely necessary in the cause of safety—and it's doubtful, we suspect, that any such change IS necessary.

Tradition vs. dernization In Old A

Managing Editor

"Pure as the dawn on the brow of thy beauty..." are the words in the UA Alma Mater written while the author was looking at the east side of Old Main in the early morning. Early in the morning, when the beautiful Ozarks are at their best and when the lovely old building that has been a part of these mountains for so many, many years is at her best also.

I would not find it difficult to believe if you could not recognize the verse from the song. However I would fina it impossible to conceive that you could not identify Old Main. She has stood for nearly a hundred years as a large monstrosity in the middle of the UA campus to the freshman and as a fleeting memory of days gone by to the passing student.

And now, in the middle of the UA Centennial year, the administration has decided to gut the landmark and rebuild the interior into an antiseptic classroom.

There are times when the decision of administrators should be questioned and this is the time. There are many realities in this controversy that should be brought to the public eye, and although I must graduate from this institution in a few years, I think they should be said.

The question that has NOT been persistently asked on this matter is the opinion of others. A recent news release from the UA stated, "A substantial part of the financing of the renovation will come from the federal government under legislation specifically designed to preserve historic buildings." Has there been the

consideration of where these federal funds originate? Obviously, from the pockets of fellow Arkansans, many of whom are graduates of the UA and probably would not be anxious for their memories of college days here to be ruined without their opinions considered.

I have seen too many alumni drive through this campus exclaiming over the new, modern Science Building and then comment on Old Main as the final link of their existence here.

Years ago the administration seemingly took away the unique practice of inscribing the names of seniors on the sidewalks and now they want to exterminate the one association these alumni have with the campus. This brings us to a reality. It has to be considered that this action could bring such statewide concern that these alumni are not going to be so willing to give their normal donations to this campus if the one sentimental part they knew as students is gone.

This point brings us to another much stronger reality. The UA is in trouble. This is more valid scare talk than the administration pouring out that Old Main might collapse any minute (which, as a matter of fact, they have).

It is common knowledge that the UA has very serious public relations problems. It is obvious that administrators have gone throughout the state pleading for funds with much more vigor than in the past.

The Law School controversy is a nasty mess that reaches not only the ears of Arkansas citizens, but may have nationwide effect.

the so-called lifestream of the UA, freight-type conveyence that is the Razorback football team. They have seen more serious setbacks this year than ever before with a disappointing season, new ticket and scholarship policies, and an unfortunate accidental shooting of one of the players by a teammate.

Also, we have been caught now in a touchy political and racial situation with the merger of AM&N College with the University. All of this in an election year and I wonder if anyone has thought to ask the governor how he feels.

The UA has seen these complex. ventually they will be solved. However, it stands to reason there are going to be some very bad reactions all over the state, no matter which way these controversies go.

With the realities established, the facts are even more convincing. The news release previously mentioned brings about the following points as reasons for the renovation:

"Most of the existing floors and joists are wooden and are not fireproof. In some areas, the floors are supported by cast iron columns which would collapse under unusually high temperature." A respected engineer on this campus said that not only will cast iron columns collapse under high temperatures, but almost any building material will. He also said that steel is the worst material about buckling and falling in fire, and surprisingly enough wood is the best fire prevention material because it only charrs. Old Main has a great amount of wood in its interior.

"The only elevator is a unsafe and entirely inadequate to meet the traffic demands of thousands of students and the 20,000 persons who visit the fourth floor University Museum each year." This fact startles me to think about the many people who climb in that elevator each day and the thought that they are in danger. Why have these conditions been allowed to persist for so long? They mention the museum, but forget to mention that the director began a campaign to have it moved to Vol Walker Library as soon as the new library was built.

3."A number of collections problems mature and develop and already have had to be removed from the museum for safety reasons. The weight of these collections is such that the upper floor could fail and cause collapse of all floors below." Again, why have these conditions been allowed to persist for so long? Other alternatives can be considered than gutting Old Main.

4. "The building does not provide access for physically handicapped persons as required by state law." I questioned the physical plant about how many buildings on this campus have facilities for the handicapped and they were unable to tell me. It is logical that if the state laws are enforced so rigorously the Physical Plant should be aware. For someone who knows, ask a handicapped person if he can get to the Student Union

over that large curb and the steps. 5. "The aging wooden parts of the structure have suffered dry rot and termite damage and these threats will increase as time goes on. This is partially due to the fact that the spaces between the floors

from a professional architect is that space between the floors are filled with sand that was used as a fire prevention years ago. He added that termites do not breed in this type of environment.

6. "Increased maintenance costs for the building are becoming a major expenditure. This is especially true for the deteriorating condition of the cornice, gutters and roof which require constant maintenance and repair in order to prevent water damage to both the interior and exterior of the building," according to Joe Talley, Superintendent of the Physical Plant. The cost of everything has gone up in the past decade at astronomical proportions. It is conceivable that the cost of the maintenance of Old Main has risen with it. The question is: will the new building be more costly than the upkeep and improvement of the old? No one has seemed to be able to give comparative prices.

No one has suggested that the building be made a "shrine", but a usable structure full of tradition and interesting ghosts. You might consider that the Law School, the UA Library, the Journalism Dept., the Razorback and TRAVELER. the first museum, all found their beginnings in this venerable building. All the traditions, symbols, and customs we have known here are wrapped up in that building. Why four million dollars to ruin this?

At the next Razorback football game I must remember while singing the Alma Mater to omit the words, "Pure as the dawn on the brow of iny beauty .. because the inspiration will be

Opinion

Springdale, Ark., Sunday News April 16.1972

A Need to Preserve Old Main

Thanks to the tenacity of the Sunday NEWS columnist Ernie Deane, the renovation of Old Main, the University of Arkansas landmark, will not pass unnoticed. After all, when it was constructed in 1875 it was the largest building in Arkansas er education in the state.

For thousands of UA alumni there is a sentimental attachment that should not be destroyed. As Deane put it in his first column revealing the University's plans for tearing out the building's insides:

"The venerable building needs fixing up, no question about that. The question would seem to be, what really in a long-

range sense is the best way to fix it? Some of us don't agree at all that the best

way is to rip out and rebuild. . . "

That has become the crux of a disagreement between the University administration and opponents to the renovation plan (more commonly referred to as "gutting"). In addition to receiving complaints from UA grads, faculty members like Deane and many others, the administration now has agreed to argue its case before the Washington County Historical Society. That organization's board of directors has already gone on record as being opposed to gutting of the building and replacing the core, which would include the addition of another floor.

The growing opposition to the original plan of renovation apparently has already caused some second thoughts on

just how this will be accomplished. Dr. Dwain Manske, president of the County Historical Society and a UA English professor, suggests that the federal government might need to take a closer look at the proposal since much of the funding will and it has always been the symbol of high- be federal money. This is a result of the building being listed in the Registry of Historic Places.

> Dr. Manske notes that there is a difference "in restoration and remodeling," and his thoughts on this point will surely be expanded and clarified when the question is dehated before the Historical Society.

> If the building can be declared structurally sound without a complete "gutting" then this is certainly the course that should be followed. Too much history has gone into Old Main to see it reduced to a pile of old lumber, iron, hand-fired bricks and square nails that alone actually represent nothing.

> And the idea of adding another floor to the inside seems a little foolish and contradictory.

> Old Main is one of the few remaining original buildings on the UA campus and every effort should be made to retain as much of its original construction as possible. Too much history is being destroyed by today's so-called "progress." Old Main should not be allowed to fall victim to that type of thinking.