

DEC 14 1987

MRA No. 126

INDIVIDUAL DATA SHEET

Property Name Bank of GentryProperty Owner Nina SteelLocation Main Street, GentryAddress P. O. box 38Construction Date 1904 Survey No. 2917Gentry, AR 72734

DESCRIPTION

The Bank of Gentry Building is located on Main Street in a continuous row of attached commercial structures. It predates the surrounding structures, which is obvious from the amount and detail of the store front. The facade design is based on a triumphal arc, with a large arch in the center and smaller arches to each side. One of the smaller arches functions as the entrance. The arches are supported by pilasters with ionic capitals. Beneath the center of each small arch is a sculptural head and above each is a rectangular panel created by the brickwork. The larger central arch has an ornamental keystone with the date of construction and sculptural panel below. The cornice is created by a string-course, brick corbelling and limestone capping. The final ornament is the sculpted heads and plain blocks that are used as decoration across the top.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Criterion: CArea of significance: Architecture

The State Bank of Gentry was established in 1901 and had the building constructed in 1904. In 1911 the bank failed and was reopened as the Citizens Bank of Gentry. However, its significance is primarily architectural. It stands out in the central block of Main Street as the dominant structure because of its highly decorative details.

The sculptures described above have added significance because not only were they crafted locally, but the artist was L.H. Moore, the president and founder of the bank, who was also an amateur sculptor. The man and woman beneath the smaller arches represent the Arkansas Traveler and his wife, both original Moore works. The other figures are copies of mythological characters, except the woman at the top center, who is said to be Moore's wife. The fine detailing of the Bank of Gentry makes it a unique example of turn-of-the-century commercial architecture in small town Arkansas.

Acreage less than 1 acreVerbal Boundary Description Lot 9, Block 21, Original TownQuadrangle Name Gentry, Ark.Quadrangle Scale 1:24000UTM Reference: Zone 15 Easting 366810 Northing 4014450

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

DEC 14 1987

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Benton County MRA
State Benton County, ARKANSAS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

Cover

~~Substantive Review~~Keeper Amy Schlager 1/28/88

1. Bentonville Train Station

~~Substantive Review~~Keeper Amy Schlager 1/28/88

Attest _____

2. Linebarger House

~~Substantive Review~~Keeper Amy Schlager 1/28/88

Attest _____

3. Siloam Springs City Park

~~Substantive Review~~Keeper Amy Schlager 1/28/88Attest SKK

4. Adar House

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelene Byers 3/25/88

Attest _____

5. Alden House

Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Shelene Byers 1/28/88

Attest _____

6. Bank of Gentry

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelene Byers 1/28/88

Attest _____

7. Banks House

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelene Byers 1/28/88

Attest _____

8. Bartell, Fred, House

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelene Byers 1/28/88

Attest _____

9. Beasley Homestead

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelene Byers 1/28/88

Attest _____

10. Benton County Courthouse

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelene Byers 1/28/88

Attest _____

87002416

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Bank of Gentry (Benton County MRA)
Benton County
ARKANSAS

DEC 14 1987

Working No. _____

Fed. Reg. Date: 2/7/89

Date Due: 1/4/88 1/28/88

Action: ☒ ACCEPT 1-28-88

☐ RETURN

☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

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

National Register

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: _____



No. 126

STATE BANK BUILDING - 2917

GENTRY

BENTON Co. MRA

PHOTO'S BY M. MADDEN, 1987

NEGATIVES on FILE at AMPP

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000022