DATA SHEET PH 0246875

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE ENTERED

RECEIVED 0CT 1 4 1975

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	DISTRICT	X PUBLIC	X_OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	X MUSEUM		
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	SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS		
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CONDITION

X_EXCELLENT
__GOOD

_FAIR

__DETERIORATED

__RUINS
__UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

_UNALTERED

CHECK ONE

X_ORIGINAL SITE

__MOVED DATE_____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

In 1891 the Women's Library Association of Helena, Arkansas, constructed a two-and-one-half storey building to house their library. Almost forty years later a one-and-one-half-storey museum was added to the original library building. The combined structures are known as the Helena Library and Museum.

The library is a two-storey brick building with a mansard roof. Paired gable dormers project from the roof on all four elevations. On the side and rear elevations the double-hung sash windows have segmental heads and cast-stone lugsills. Around the entire building the wall surface is broken with coursing at the second-storey line.

The facade of the library is divided into three bays by brick pilasters. Paired windows set in segmental-arch frames flank the one-storey enclosed entry porch. An unusual decorated entablature surmounts the second-storey windows on the facade. The cornice features molded woodwork with decorative brackets above brick coursing.

The museum building adjoins the southwest corner of the library and is architecturally harmonious with the library building. Like the library, the facade of the museum is divided into three bays by brick pilasters and has a segmental—arch entry flanked by paired, segmental—arch windows. The museum has a truncated hip roof extending over the brick cornice.

Several additions have been made to the rear of the Helena Library and Museum. In the 1960's two one-storey, flat-roofed additions were made to the rear (west) elevation of the library. A one-storey, gable-roofed extension was added to the museum in 1974. The only alteration to the library's facade occurred about 1914 when the entry was moved from the north front window to the center bay.

The interior of the library building has molded trim with corner blocks around doors and windows. In the northeast corner of the building an elegant stairway with slender turned balusters rises to the second storey. The interior of the museum consists of one large open room completely surrounded by a railed balcony. Museum displays are located around both the ground floor and the balcony. Interior woodwork in the museum is harmonious with that in the library.

This architecturally interesting structure, which is somewhat reminiscent of the Second-Empire style, is painted a glowing pink with white trim around the doors and windows. Resting on its original site near the downtown area, the Helena Library and Museum remains in excellent condition.

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

PREHISTORIC	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
_1400-1499	_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	_LAW	SCIENCE
_1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
_1600-1699	_XARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	X_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
X1800-1899	COMMERCE	_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION
_1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	X_OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		Library & Museum

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Andrew P. Coolidge-Museum

SPECIFIC DATES 1891

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As the oldest public building in Helena, Arkansas, the Phillips County Library and Museum is an important local landmark. During the two decades following its 1891 construction the building functioned as the civic center of Helena. Its continual use as a library and museum has made it the most historically important educational building still standing in Phillips County.

In the 1870's Helena's first library originated with the Rescue Hook and Ladder Company. This volunteer-firemen's group had a small lending library for several years. In 1878 another group of men established the Helena Library Association. Ten years later the Women's Library Association was organized and chartered, and the Helena Library Association soon disbanded. The 533 books owned by the men's library were donated to the new women's library.

Construction of a permenant library building was important to the Women's Library Association. In 1889, only a year after the group was organized, a site was acquired on which to build a library. By 1891 enough money had been raised to finance construction of a \$6,000.00 building. Helena contractors Raenhart and Simon were in charge of construction.

From 1889 until the 1920's, when public support first became available, almost every kind of money raising event imaginable was held to benefit the Helena Library. From the sale of local bonds and figurative bricks to the holding of benefit concerts, bazaars and dances, the Helena community was continually involved in raising money to support the library. Probably the most unusual fund-raising event ocurred when the main hall of the library building was used as a skating rink.

As Helena's civic center around the turn of the century, the library was used for frequent dances, receptions and women's club meetings. Religious services and school classes were held there occasionally. It was not unitl 1914 that the main room of the building was devoted exclusively to library purposes.

Beginning in 1889, with the donation of a carved wooden inkwell, many museum items were donated to the Helena Library. Through the years more and more artifacts were presented to the library, and with each new gift the need for a museum building grew. After a number of years of fund

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kirkman, Dale. "Phillips County Library and Museum". Unpublished manuscript on file with Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, Arkansas, August, 1975.

"Phillips County Library and Musuem". <u>Historic Helena and West Helena</u>. Helena, Arkansas: Phillips County Chamber of Commerce, 1973

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STREET & NUMBER	PROGRAM 9-9-75 TELEPHONE	
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Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

OCT 1 4 1975

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

DEC. 6 1975

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 1

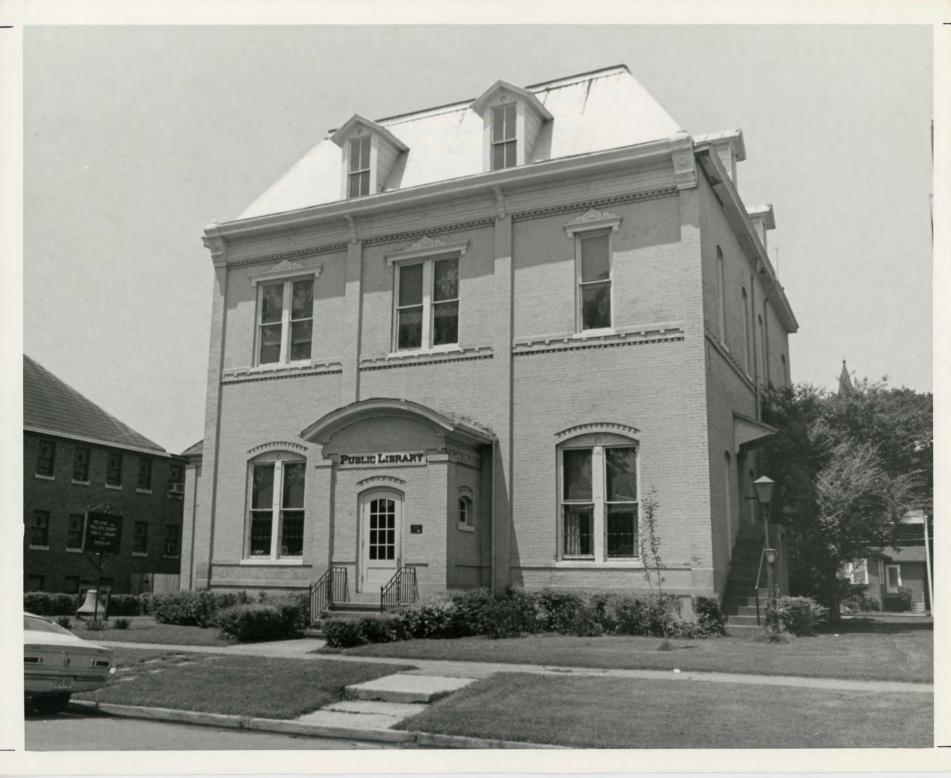
raising similar to that which financed the library, a museum wing was added to the Helena Library in 1929.

The Helena Museum is one of the most important local museums in Arkansas. Displays include Indian artifacts, personal effects of several individuals prominent in Helena's history, Civil War relics, early documents relating to Phillips County history and many other items. In addition, both the museum and library contain a great deal of archival material concerned with Helena's past.

Architecturally, the Helena Library and Museum is unusual in eastern Arkansas because of its mansard roof. In this community of Greek Revival and Victorian residences, the French mansard library is a distinctive change of pace. For many years the building has been painted a vibrant pink, a color in contrast to the quiet use of the structure.

The Helena Library and Museum has a great deal of local historic significance as the oldest public building in the community, as an early civic center, and as the repository for a great number of articles and information concerned with Phillips County history. Its architectural style, unusual in this area, adds further to the signficance of the building.

Property 2/000 at Library and Museum	Phillips Co.
State arkansas Working Number 10,14, 75,1797	75000400
TECHNICAL Photos	CONTROL
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National Register Write-up Send-back	Entered <u>REC 6 1975</u>
Federal Register Entry 3-2-76 Re-submit	INT:2106-74



Helera Ribrary + Museum.
Phillips Co., Ark.
Library Jacade+ north elevation, viewed from the northeast

Form No. 10-301a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECIEVED OCT 1 4 1975

DEC 6 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS

TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

HELENA LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

AND/OR COMMON

PHILLIPS COUNTY LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

____VICINITY OF

STATE ARKANSAS COUNTY

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

HELENA

PHOTO CREDIT DIANNA KIRK

DATE OF PHOTO SUMMER, 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

LIBRARY FACADE AND NORTH ELEVATION, VIEWED FROM THE NORTHEAST

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PHOTO NO.

GPO 892-454

(6)



Helena Library V- Museum cade & south elevation, never I have the e- 17 Form No. 10-301a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY OCT 1 4 1975 RECIEVED DEC 6 1975 DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

NAME

HELENA LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

AND/OR COMMON PHILLIPS COUNTY LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

LOCATION

CITY, TOWN HELENA VICINITY OF

STATE

PHILLIPS

PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

DIANNA KIRK

DATE OF PHOTO

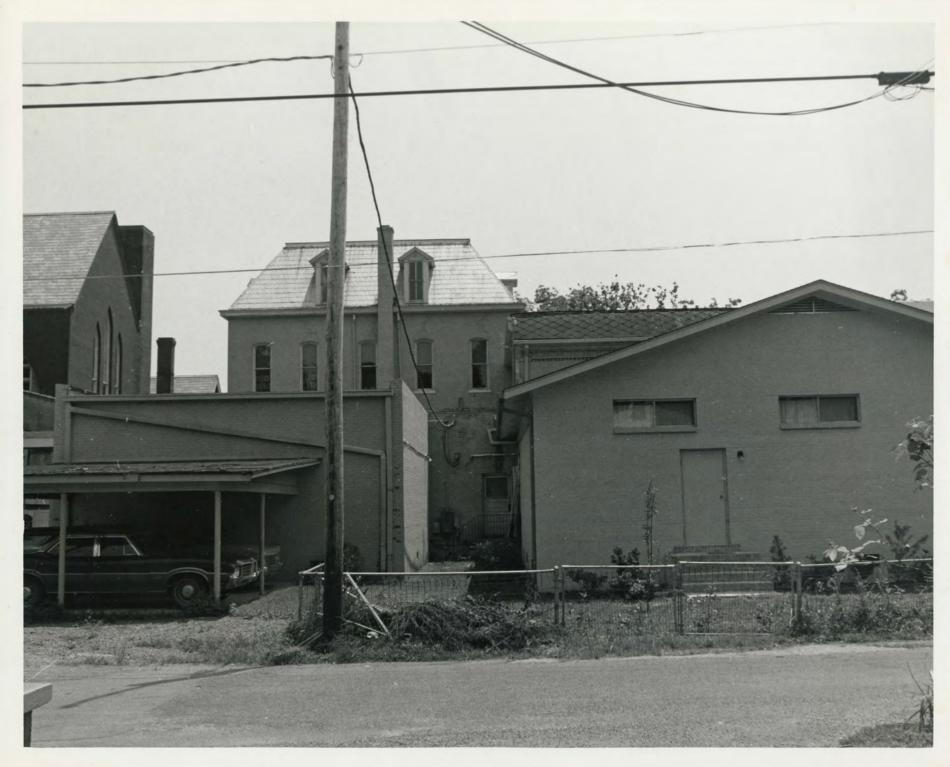
SUMMER, 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET FACADE AND SOUTH ELEVATION, VIEWED FROM THE SOUTHEAST PHOTO NO.



Helera Library + Museum Phillips Co., Ark.

Form No. 10-301a (Rev. 10-74)

> UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTL. IOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY DATE ENTERED DEC 6 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

NAME

HISTORIC

HELENA LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

AND/OR COMMON

PHILLIPS COUNTY LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

_VICINITY OF

STATE

ARKANSAS

COUNTY PHILLIPS

HELENA

PHOTO REFERENCE

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DATE OF PHOTO SUMMER, 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

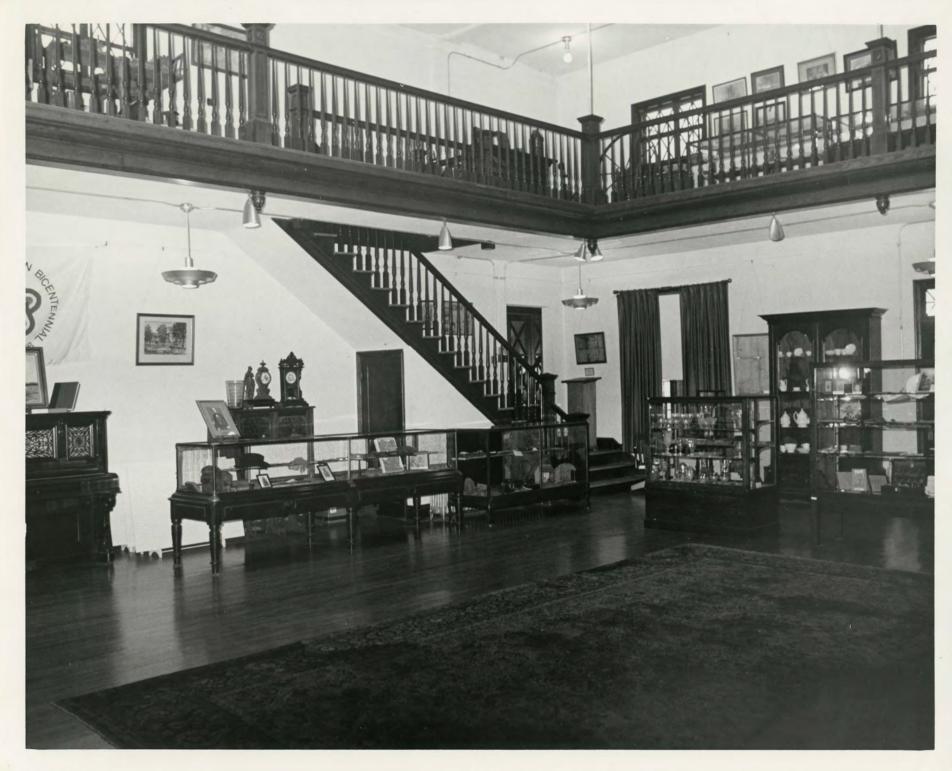
ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET REAR ELEVATION, VIEWED FROM THE WEST

PHOTO NO.

GPO 892-454



Phillips 6., A.K.

muc

Form No. 10-301a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

POR NPS USE ONLY
RECIEVED OCT 1 4 1975

DATE ENTERED DEC 6 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS

TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

HELENA LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

AND/OR COMMON

PHILLIPS COUNTY LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN HELENA ___VICINITY OF

STATE ARKANSAS COUNTY

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT DIANNA KIRK

DATE OF PHOTO SUMMER, 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

INTERIOR OF MUSEUM, VIEWED FROM NORTHEAST ENTRY

PHOTO NO.

4 0/4

GPO 892-454

444

Form No. 10-301 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

RECEIVED OCT 1 4 1975

DATE ENTERED DEC 6 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS

TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

HELENA LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

AND/OR COMMON

PHILLIPS COUNTY LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

__VICINITY OF

COUNTY

STATE

HELENA

PHILLIPS

ARKANSAS

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LATOUR QUADRANGLE

SCALE 1:62,500

DATE

1961

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

- 1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
- 2. NORTH ARROW
- 3. UTM REFERENCES

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE

ARKANSAS

Date Entered

DEC 6 1975

Name

Location

Main Hall, Central College

Conway

Faulkner County

Marlsgate (William P. Dortch House)

Scott

Lonoke County

Watson-Sawyer House

Hamburg

Ashley County

Helena Library and Museum

Helena

Phillips County

Ferguson House

Augusta

Woodruff County

Also Notified

Hon. John L. McClellan

Hon. Dale Bumpers

Hon. Wilbur D. Mills

Hon. Ray Thornton

Hon. Bill Alexander

Regional Director, Southwest

Region

State Historic Preservation Officer

Mr. Gene Richardson

Acting Director, Department of Natural

and Cultural Heritage

The Old State House

300 West Markham

Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

PR

MMott/row

12/12/75

INT: 2950-75

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□ AGRICULTURE -3 □ ARCHITECTURE -4	CONSERVATION - ECONOMICS - 9 EDUCATION - 10		MILITARY - 18 MUSIC - 19 PHILOSOPHY - 20	SOCIAL / HUMANITARIAN SOCIAL / CULTURAL - 30 TRANSPORTATION - 25	0 -24 OTHER (SPECIFY)	'only'	public building incidy
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