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### 7 DESCRIPTION

east

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#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Merchants and Planters' Bank is a large, rectangular brick building with a hipped slate roof. It is flanked by two smaller commercial structures of approximately the same age and of the Victorian Romanesque style.

Entrance to the two-story bank building is a triangular porch, inset on the northeast corner. The porch is composed of two rusticated arches resting on a capitaled marble column. Above the entrance is a three-story round tower, articulated between the second and third floors in molded terra cotta. The conical roof of the tower is shingled and topped with a finial.

Dressed granite banding articulates the building between floors. Windows on the first story are rectangular, while windows on the second floor are framed in masonry arches. Brick is of excellent quality, molded and rubbed with pencil joints. Doors are oak with bronze hardware. The terra-cotta detailing is of particular interest.

The interior of the Merchants and Planters' Bank has tin ceilings, encaustic tile floors, marble wainscots and good hardware. The floors are of fireproof construction. The building has four skylights with operable windows and two lightwells which also serve as ventilating shafts. The three original bank vaults, one of which is of notable design, are still intact. The second floor is reached by a hardwood stair with railing and balusters. Flooring is oak.

north

The attached building on the east side is a two-story store front divided into three bays on the first level and four on the second. The building has metal cornices and hood molds.

On the north side is a two-story building topped with an overhanging cornice of geometrical pattern. This structure is also detailed in terra cotta.

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

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

DATE ENTERED

Pine Bluff, AR. CONTINUATION SHEET Merchants Bank ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

Paragraphs 5 and 6 of the architectural description should read as follows:

The attached building on the north side is a two-storey store front divided into three bays on the first level and four on the second. The building has metal cornices and hood molds.

On the east side is a two-storey building topped with and overhanging cornice of geometrical pattern. This structure is also detailed in terra cotta.

### 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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The Merchants and Planters Bank Building is a large brick structure featuring in its architectural design round turrets, arched windows, granite foundation and decorative brick work. In addition to its architectural significance, the Merchants and Planters Bank Building represents a large part of downtown Pine Bluff's commercial development.

On December 1, 1876, the Merchants and Planters Bank was formed for the purpose of acquiring the banking firm of Smart, Hudson and Company. President of the new firm was V. D. Wilkins with Gabe Meyer as vice-president and H. H. Hunn, Cashier. The Merchants and Planters Bank was organized under the laws of Arkansas with a capital of \$58,000. The bank was reorganized in 1889 with the capitalization increased to \$100,000. In 1891 a building was constructed to house the banking offices at 100 Main Street. A feature of the new building was a vault which contained a safe described as "of the screwlock pattern and having two revolving panels in the door, which, on being turned by a crank, made it absolutely burglar-proof." The installation of this vault and safe proved to be a good investment as a fire on January 24, 1892, destroyed the building and everything on the north half of the block between Barraque Street and West Second Avenue and Main and Pine Streets except Dewoody's drugstore which was protected by a firewall.

The bank officials immediately employed Thomas A. Harding, a Little Rock architect, to draw plans for a new building. Harding was in partnership with prominent Arkansas architect, Charles L. Thompson. In addition to the Merchants and Planters Bank Building, Harding designed six Arkansas State Parks and the Ouachita County Courthouse. In Little Rock he designed the Vinson House (National Register - ), the Fones House (National Register - ), and St. Andrews Cathedral.

A contract was let to W. I. Hilliard of Pine Bluff and the new building was completed on October 31, 1892. The plumbing and gas fixtures were installed by F. A. Stanley with millwork furnished by John P. Haight. The interior fixtures of polished oak with brass railings were supplied by A. H. Andrews of Chicago, "well-known bank outfitters." The bank has a tile floor and entrance which consists of two marble columns "supported and arched" by massive blocks of Fourche mountain (Pulaski County) granite. The building was described as of modern bank architecture and, in exterior and interior adornment, as "one of the handsomest bank buildings in the South."

The Merchants and Planters bank was a victim of "The Great Depression" in 1930 after 60 years of continuous operation.

The exterior of the structure has not been altered. Jim Hood, the present owner, has taken considerable pride in the building and has maintained the exterior in excellent condition. The interior has been remodeled into office space for his insurance and real estate business. This building is considered to be of great significance to the community and state from an architectural and historic standpoint.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRA	PHICAL REFER	RENCES		
The Pine Bluff Weekly The Weekly Press, Sep The Weekly Press, Dec The Pine Bluff Press- Press-Eagle, August 1 Press-Eagle, January Press-Eagle, November	Press, June 2, 1 stember 5, 1872. ember 7, 1876. Eagle, February 1 1, 1891. 26, 1892	1870.	AREAS DA SI AREAS CONTRA AREAS CONTRA AREAS CONTRA AREAS	
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STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFIC		the d	arve	Cleansana and to
TITLE		SH	PO DATE	1-18-78 (JFT)
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Sandra Taylor-Smith

10/77

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4.

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

# **4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET	
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viewed from the northeast

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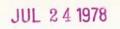
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MERCHANTS AND PLANTERS BANK BUILDING Jefferson County, AR

Photo 7 of 15



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MERCHANTS AND PLANTERS BANK BUILDING Jefferson County, AR

Photo 🔗 of 15



MERCHANTS AND PLANTERS BANK BUILDING Jefferson County, AR

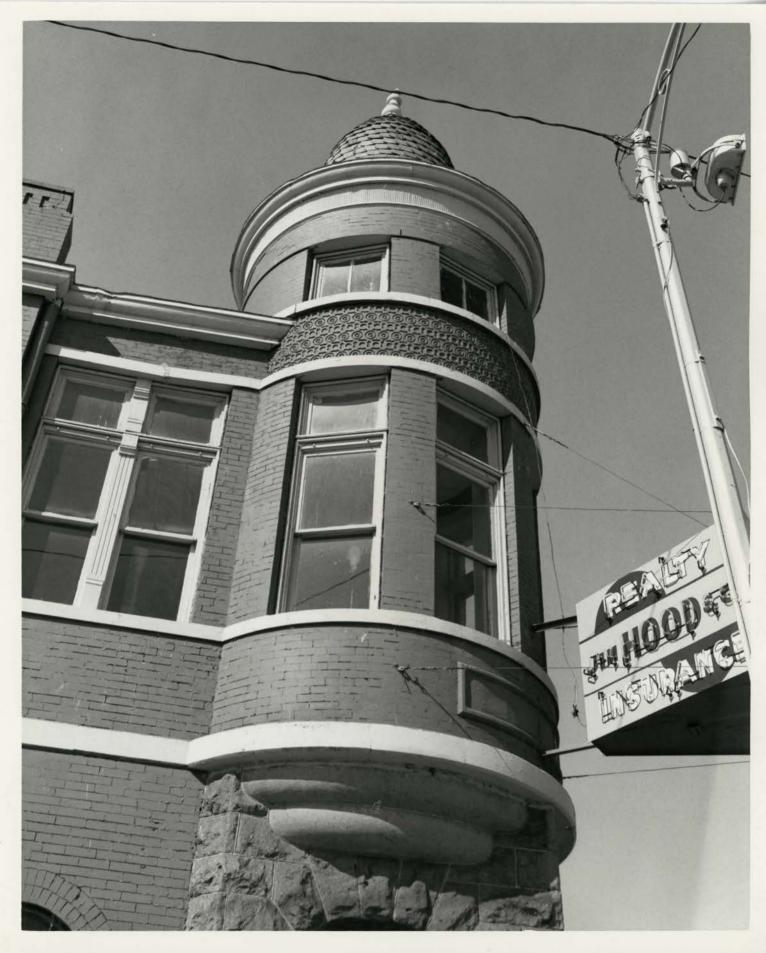
Photo 9 of 15



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MERCHANTS AND PLANTERS BANK BUILDING Jefferson County, AR

Photo 10 of 15



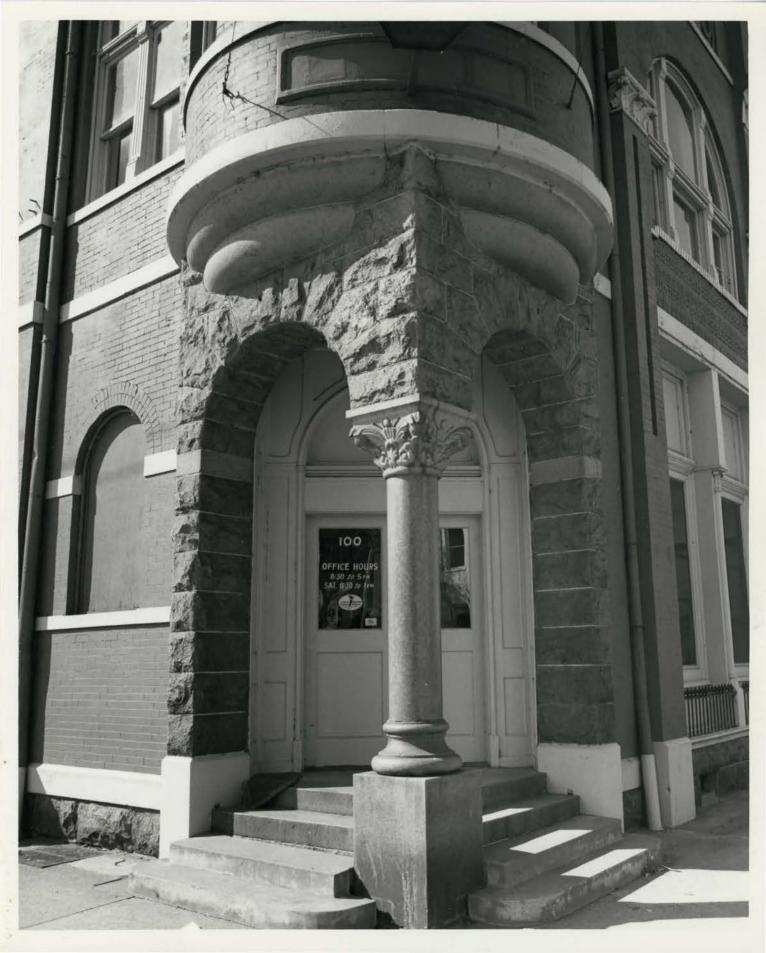
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MERCHANTS AND PLANTERS BANK BUILDING Jefferson County, AR

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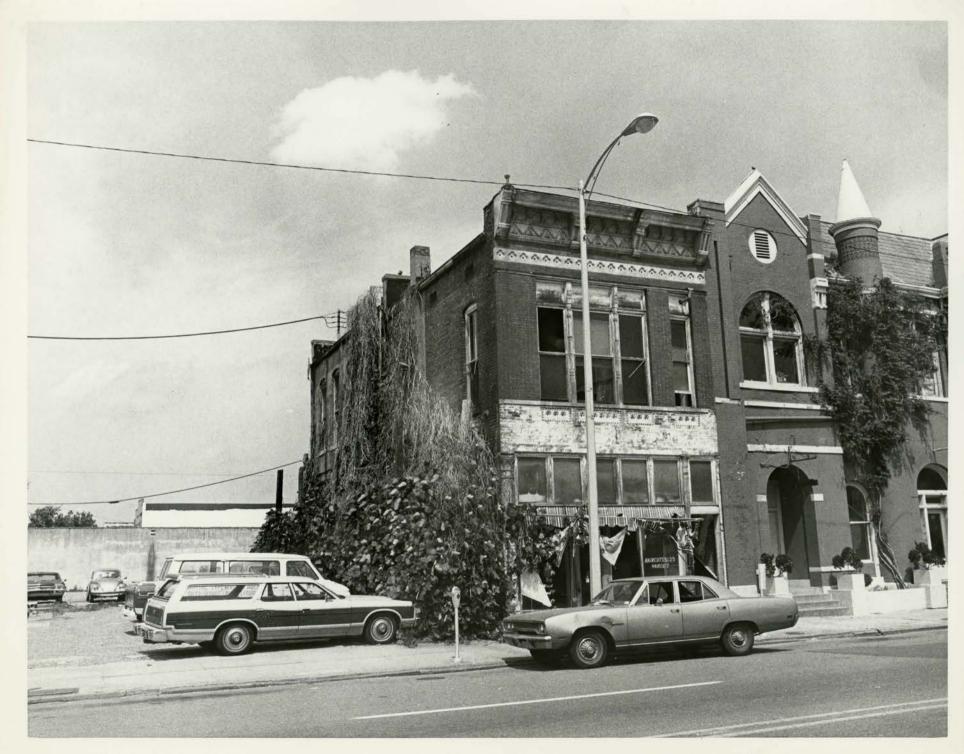


5. MERCHANTS AND PLANTERS BANK JEFFERSON County, Arkansas MARBLE COLUMN AND SPANITE ENTRANCE

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MERCHANTS AND PLANTERS BANK BUILDING Jefferson County, AR

Photo 12 of 15



4. MERCHANTS AND PLANTERS BANK JEFFERSON County, Arkansas VIEWED From the southeAst

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MERCHANTS AND PLANTERS BANK BUILDING Jefferson County, AR

Photo 13 of 15

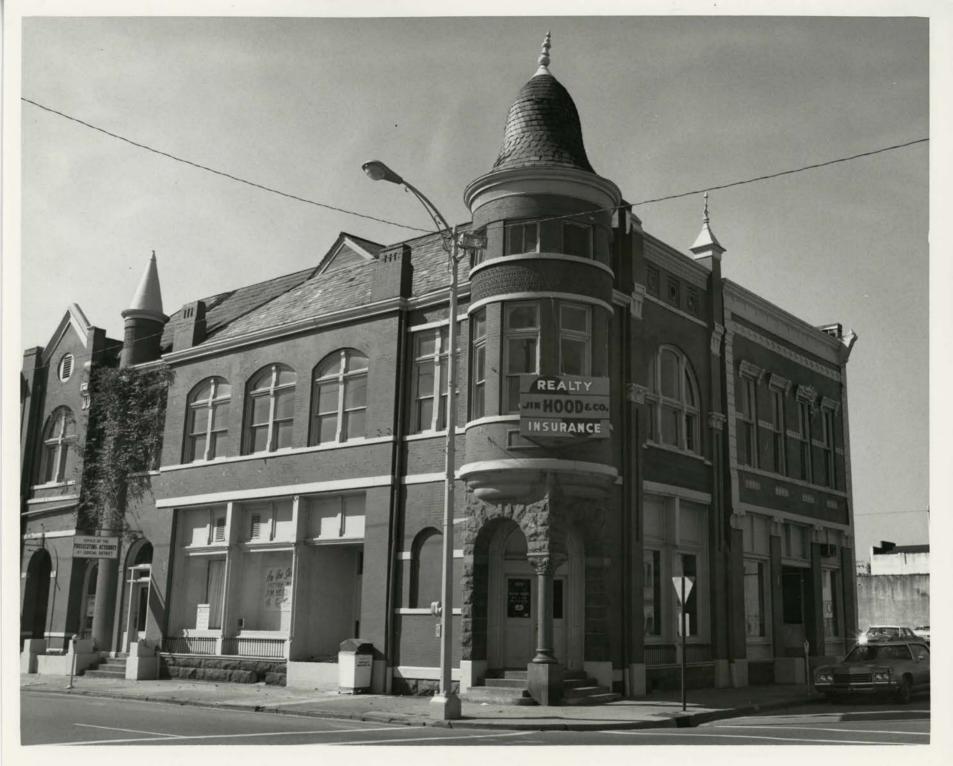


3. MERCHANTS AND PLANTERS BANK JEfferson county, Arkans AS VIEWED From the North West

AUG 1 1978

MERCHANTS AND PLANTERS BANK BUILDING Jefferson County, AR

Photo 14 of 15



JERCHANTS AND PLANTERS BANK JEFFERSON COUNTY, ARKANSAS DIEWED From the NorthEAST

MERCHANTS AND PLANTERS BANK BUILDING Jefferson County, AR

Photo 15 of 15



JEFFERSON County, Arkons AS VIEWED From the North Ast

MERCHANTS AND PLANTERS BANK BUILDING Jefferson County, AR

Photo 15 of 15 Property of the National Register Form No. 10-301 (Rev. 10-74)

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

FOR NPS L	SE ONLY	
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### SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

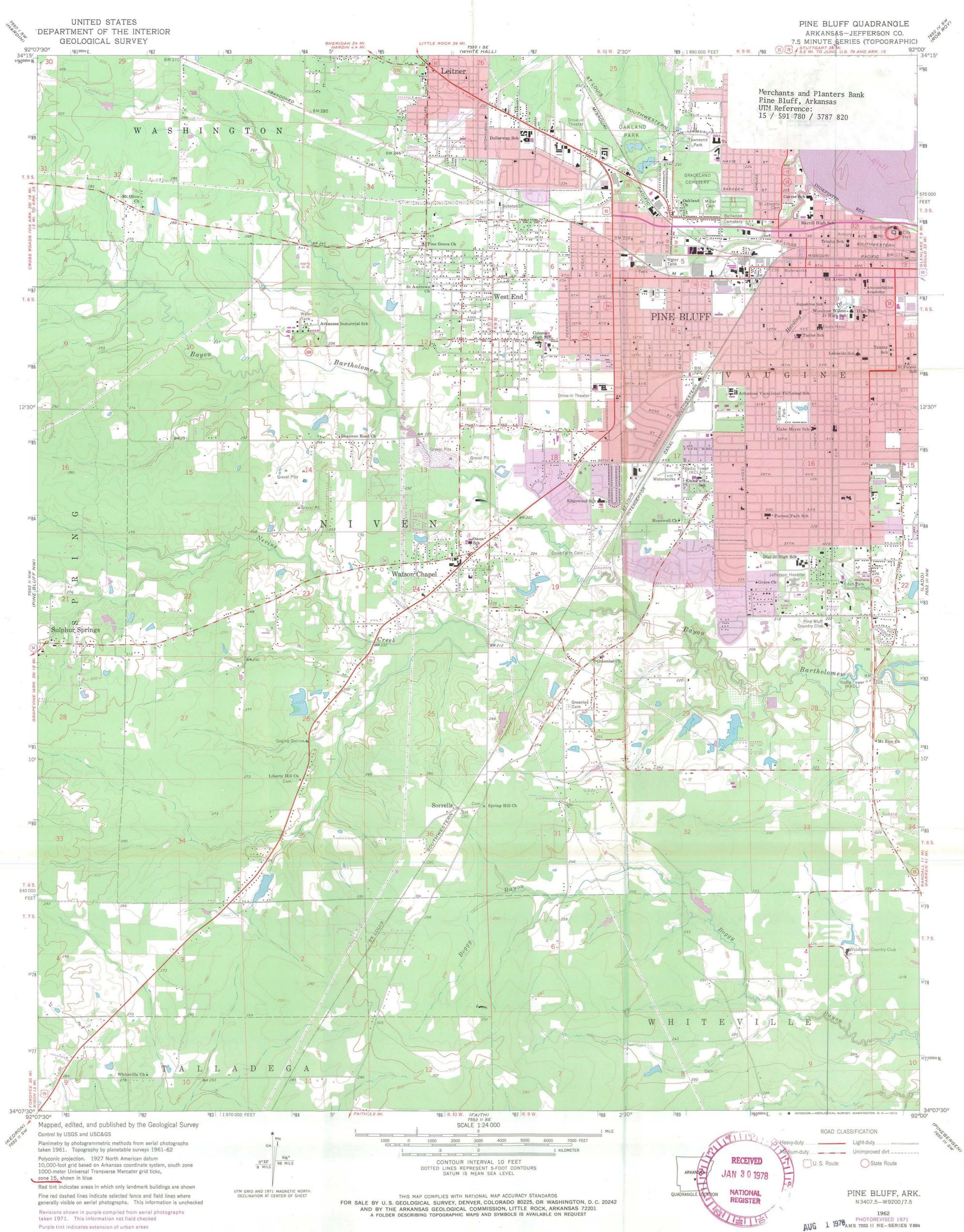
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1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES

2. NORTH ARROW

**3. UTM REFERENCES** 

INT: 2986-75



# National Register of Historic Places

# Note to the record

Additional Documentation: 2014

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY Merchants and Planters Bank Building NAME:

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Jefferson

DATE RECEIVED: 8/26/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/12/14 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 78000600

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL:	N	DATA PROBLEM:	Ν	LANDSCAPE:	N	LESS THAN 50 YEARS:	Ν
OTHER:	Ν	PDIL:	N	PERIOD:	N	PROGRAM UNAPPROVED:	N
REQUEST:			Ν	SLR DRAFT:	Ν	NATIONAL:	N
COMMENT V	VAIN	/ER: N					
ACCEPT	C	RETURN		_REJECT	0.	8.14 DATE	

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Additional Documentation Approved

RECOM./CRITERIA	Nº N	1
REVIEWER Land All	DISCIPLINE /oslowy	
TELEPHONE	DATE 10.8.14	

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page

After the bank failed Jefferson County took ownership of the property. In 1946 E. W. Hood (1886-1972) purchased it from Jefferson County, and then in 1956 Jim Hood (1928-1999) bought it from his father. For 43 years Jim and Avis Hood ran Hood & Company Realty & Insurance and Southern Development Corporation here.

After the 1976 fire that destroyed the Jefferson County Courthouse, the "Hood Building", as it has been called, was condemned by the county government under eminent domain along with all the other properties in the north half blocks between Pine Street and State Street. They wanted to make a courthouse parking plaza out of it. Jim Hood filed a lawsuit contesting the price the county government deemed to be the fair market value as required by law. The "plaza plan" was subsequently abandoned after having been delayed by the court case until another County Judge, Earl Chadick, took office, and enough public sentiment for preserving the historical landmark resulted in the condemnation being rescinded. If it had not been for the tenaciousness of Jim Hood this building might not be here today.

The present owner, Southern Development Corporation, maintains the historic integrity of its exterior. Operating as an office building, today it remains one of Pine Bluff's landmarks to the prosperous 1890s.

National Register of Historic Places Memo to File

# Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

DEfferson CO. Merchants and Planters Bank Building Working Number 1. 30. 78. 2362 78000600 Property . Working Number 1. 30.78.236 +9 Needs acrease, date OK State CONTROL TECHNICAI 6 Photos\_ 1, 2 Statches Maps 1.31.7 Extremely por inchitectual description and even weaker statement of onchitectional significance, but will defer to inchilectual historian. Need to know accease + whether adjacent bldgs. one also being nominated, and date signed by SHP3. HISTORIAN re towner ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN accept Snarham 2-1-78 ARCHEOLOGIST **OTHER** HAER Inventory \_\_\_\_ Review Auchitestural / historical significance is not full - REVIEW UNIT CHIEF top for the tent pribling (that legal since are the Aller of pribling (the since are the source of cabular 7-3/-18 important in that community even an unthant accept a lat of site integrity. BRANCH CHIEF KEEPER National Register Write-up AUG Send-back \_\_\_\_\_ Entered 9.5.78 Federal Register Entry Re-submit \_ INT:2106-74 HCYRS United States Department of the Interior National Park Service WASO No. 7

JONES & PETTY ATTORNEYS AT LAW 616 NATIONAL BUILDING P. O. BOX 7673 PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS 71601

JOHN HARRIS JONES MELVIN E. PETTY

December 13, 1977

PHONE: 535-2271

Dr. William Murtagh Department of Interior National Park Service National Register Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

I am writing to you at the suggestion of Ms. Barbara Woodard, deputy director of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

I represent the owner of the Hood Building which, if the plans of the County Judge are followed, will be razed to make parking space for the new county courthouse. The building has been inspected by Mr. Dan Chapel, architect with the Arkansas program, who finds it of architectural significance.

My conception of the defense of the building is set out in the Complaint, a copy of which is enclosed. Marked in red are the portions which relate to the historic and architectural uniqueness of the structure.

The case is set for trial January 9-11, 1978. The local newspaper has demonstrated its interest in preservation of the building. If we can stop the County from this bull-dozer operation the impact may be much greater than saving one structure.

Is it possible that you might appear as an expert witness?

John Harris Jones

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Handy 1.4.77 LEBOURS 1/4/78 Cole for ton Herring 18

JAN 4 1978

H32-880

Mr. John Harris Jones Jones & Petty 616 National Building P.O. Box 7673 Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71601

Dear Mr. Jones:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Hood Building, Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

The National Register shares your concern in this matter; however, my schedule prevents me from testifying. We appreciate being informed of the situation in Pine Bluff and your efforts to preserve the Hood Building.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) William J. Murtagh

William J. Murtagh Keeper of the National Register

cc: Ms. Anne Bartley - w/cy inc. Director, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Suite 500, Continental Building Markham and Main Streets Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

bcc: Regional Director - Southwest Region - w/cy inc.

001 - Reading file

FNP:B Handy:smh:1-4-78 523-5483

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN 880



# ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM



Suite 500, Continental Building, Main and Markham Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 Telephone: (501) 371-2763

January 18, 1978



Dr. William Murtagh Keeper of the National Register National Park Service-National Register Department of the Interior Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

Enclosed you will find the nomination of the Merchants and Planters Bank Building in Pine Bluff, which has been approved by a majority vote of the Arkansas State Review Committee.

I hereby certify that the person listed in Section 4 of the nomination is the legal owner of the property.

Because the building is endangered, we would appreciate if it you would expedite the review of the nomination.

Sincerely,

Anne Bartley, State Historic Preservation Officer Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

AB/1g

Enclosure

WASO-166 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR (August 1971 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE 4R TELEPHONE REPORT 1. CALL TO: FROM (Name) 2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed) mike Shinn 501-371-2763 3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC. merchants Bank, Ark, Pine Bluff 4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION Please provide acreage less than lack are adjacent bldgs nommated YES Date signed by SMPO 1/18/78 3/2/78 - Why is this bldg endangered? -> Ct. house burned down across street. Reconstruction plans of court call for demolition of Bank to create parking lot. Demolition now in litigation. SHPO docen't know status of case off hand. 1FT

ME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL	TITLE	OFFICE
Joe Tomm	Hin	NR

### ATTN. BILL LEBOVICH

The attached material was requested concerning review of the Merchants and Planters Bank in Pine Bluff, Jefferson County, Arkansas

We were asked to describe the area surrounding the building. Enclosed is a map and photos with the direction of the photos labeled.

Also attached is a plan of the proposed courthouse plaza which would demolish the entire area.

Please pass this on to wherever the nomination might be.

Thanks Sandra Taylor Smith

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program



IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, ARKANSAS

JIM HOOD

PLAINTIFF

VS

5.

NO. E-77-909

JOE T. HENSLEE, as COUNTY JUDGE of JEFFERSON COUNTY, and WILBUR WEST, DON TATMAN, JESS P. WALT, JACK PERDUE, JR, and DR. W. L. MOLETTE, as JEFFERSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE COMMISSIONERS

FILED IN MY OFFICE AND SUMMONS ISSUED OCT 3 1977 O. W. "PETE" LONG, CLERK

### COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, Jim Hood, for cause of action against defendants, stated:

Plaintiff is a resident and taxpayer of Jefferson County,
 Arkansas and the owner and in possession of the following described
 lands in Jefferson County, Arkansas:

Beginning at the Northeast corner of Lot Four in Block Twenty-One of the Old, or Original, Town of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, thence West 59 feet; thence South 100 feet; thence East 31 feet; thence North 20 feet; thence East 28 feet; and thence North 80 feet to the point of beginning.

2. Plaintiff is also the owner of the following described lands in Jefferson County, Arkansas:

Beginning 100 feet South of the Northeast corner of Lot Four in Block Twenty-One of the Old, or Original, Town of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, thence West 59 Feet; thence South five feet; thence East 59 feet; and thence North five feet to the Point of Beginning.

3. Situated upon the lands described in paragraph 1 is the Hood Building, located at 100 Main Street, Pine Bluff, at the corner of Barraque and Main Streets and across Barraque Street from the site for reconstruction of the Jefferson County Courthouse.

4. The Hood Building was constructed in 1892 as the banking

house of The Merchants and Planters Bank of Pine Bluff, which at that time and until its receivership by the State Bank Commissioner in 1928 was the oldest State chartered bank in Arkansas. Part of the premises was also occupied for many years by Merchants & Planters Title and Investment Company.

5. Plaintiff states upon information and belief that the Hood Building is the oldest commercial structure in Pine Bluff retaining its original exterior appearance. Copy of picture of the building taken from the 1905 Beauman Atlas of Jefferson County, Arkansas, is attached as Exhibit A and made a part of this Complaint as descriptive of the exterior structure of the building. Comparison of such picture with the existing building reflects preservation of the exterior structural and design features.

6. Defendant Joe T. Henslee as County Judge of Jefferson County and the other defendants as Commissioners of Jefferson County Courthouse Commission have announced plans to acquire certain lands including the above described lands of plaintiff.

7. In all counts of this Complaint, plaintiff relies upon and asserts the limitations upon governmental powers and the rights which he shares with all other citizens and landowners under the Constitution and Laws of the State of Arkansas, including the following rules of law:

A. Counties are not granted the power of eminent domain under the Arkansas Constitution. Other than for flood control improvements, the only eminent domain power of counties is the statutory grant to condemn property for "the purpose of parks, boulevards and public buildings."

B. The right of eminent domain is to be strictly construed against the condemnor and in favor of the landowner. Those asserting the power must be confined within the limits of the legislative grant.

C. Powers delegated by the Legislature to the counties are strictly construed.

-2-

D. The rule of strict construction is especially applicable to statutes conferring the right of eminent domain.

E. Where private property is sought to be taken, any public agency seeking to exercise eminent domain must bring itself clearly within the contemplation of the statute. No more land may be taken than the public need requires.

F. "Under our governmental system the right of an individual to acquire and possess property is an inherent and inalienable right and declared to be higher than any constitutional sanction. Article 2, §§ 2 and 22, Constitution."

G. "\*\*\* no more property of a private individual and no greater interest therein, can be condemned and set apart for publicuse than is absolutely necessary. \*\*\*"

### FIRST COUNT

Plaintiff further states:

8. The architect selected by defendants for preparation of plans for the County Courthouse has publicly demonstrated that the purpose of acquisition of plaintiff's land was to demolish the Hood Building to avoid obstruction of the view of the new Courthouse from the South with the land space to be used for parking.

9. Taking of plaintiff's land for the purpose of demolishing the Hood Building to create an unobstructed view is totally beyond the power of eminent domain vested in Jefferson County and should be enjoined.

10. Taking of plaintiff's building for the purpose of creating a parking lot would be a gross abuse of discretion, capricious and arbitrary, causing unnecessary damage to plaintiff and should be enjoined. 11. The Hood Building is a structure of historic and architectural significance. According to plans approved by defendants, taking of plaintiff's land would yield 8½ parking spaces and the major portion

-3-

of 10 additional parking spaces. Demolition of the Hood Building to acquire such parking space would be arbitrary, capricious, and a gross abuse of discretion causing unnecessary harm to plaintiff. Such parking space is not absolutely necessary to defendants' plan of construction.

12. Since 1892, the Hood Building has been an integral part of the courthouse area, one of the few localities of Jefferson County having acquired a "sense of place", a distinctive character identifiable only with this location. This building is among those few which are uniquely a part of what is and has been Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

13. The Hood Building is a unique structure representing the craftsmanship of another time period and a continuity of past and present. Once destroyed, it cannot be replaced. For a public agency - to destroy it would manifest the community's lack of respect for its cultural heritage.

### SECOND COUNT

### Plaintiff further states:

14. A part of the construction plan of defendants is to obstruct Main Street of Pine Bluff in the 100 block from the alley North to the site of the Courthouse and to obstruct Barraque Street from State Street to Pine Street.

15. Jefferson County has no authority to close streets within the City of Pine Bluff.

16. The City of Pine Bluff has no authority to close Barraque Street and Main Street which were dedicated and have been in use since 1838. On the contrary, it is the duty of the City of Pine Bluff to keep such streets open.

17. The authorities of the City of Pine Bluff cannot lawfully divert a street to uses and purposes foreign to that for which it was dedicated, and it is not within the power of the legislature to authorize such diversion.

-4-

18. Plaintiff as the owner of such lands described in paragraph 1 which abut upon Main Street and upon Barraque Street has standing to sue to enjoin any obstruction of Main Street or of Barraque Street as a nuisance. Subject to the easement of the public for use of such street as a highway, plaintiff is the owner of the fee title to the lands in such streets abutting his property, described in paragraph 1, to the center line thereof.

19. Such rights as the City of Pine Bluff may have in such streets are held by it as trustee, and it cannot divert such streets to a use foreign to the original dedication for street purposes.

20. Defendants should be enjoined from any obstruction or attempted obstruction of Main Street and of Barraque Street in the City of Pine Bluff.

### THIRD COUNT

Plaintiff further states:

21. The Constitution of the State of Arkansas vests in the qualified electors of the County the power and right to authorize the construction or reconstruction of any County Courthouse.

22. The proposal for such construction or reconstruction of the Jefferson County Courthouse voted upon by the electors of the Jefferson County did not set forth any purchase of land or of demolition of the Hood Building or other buildings in the courthouse area.

23. Defendants should be enjoined from purchasing land or demolishing buildings in the courthouse area as being beyond the scope of the authority delegated to them by the electors of Jefferson County.

### FOURTH COUNT

### Plaintiff further states:

24. Defendants' proposal to take plaintiff's land has been widely publicized. Portions of said building are held for rental to

-5-

tenants. As a result of the publicity of defendants' plans to acquire such building, plaintiff has lost tenants who were paying rent to occupy portions of such Hood Building, and he has lost prospective tenants who would have rented space in such building had it not been for the threat that they would be required to move by reason of eminent domain action of defendants.

25. By reason of defendants' cloud upon plaintiff's right to continue his ownership and leasing of portions of such building, plaintiff has been damaged in the sum of \$10,000 to date of filing of this Complaint, and such damages will continue to accrue until defendants are permanently enjoined from such taking. Plaintiff is entitled to recover such damages from defendants.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff prays that defendants, and each of them, be permanently enjoined from any and all action to condemn plaintiff's lands described in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Complaint, from obstructing or attempting to obstruct Main Street and Barraque Street in the City of Pine Bluff, from purchasing land or demolishing buildings in the area of Barraque and Main Streets in the City of Pine Bluff, that he recover damages from defendants for their clouding of his title and interference with his right to lease and rent his property, for his costs herein, and all other proper relief.

John Harris Jones

Box 7673 Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71611 Attorneys for Plaintiff



H. H. HUNN, President.

# THE MERCHANTS AND PLANTERS BANK of PINE BLUFF ARKANSAS

OVER

The Oldest State Bank in Arkansas

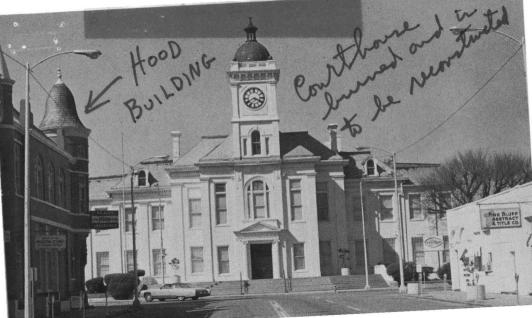
Capital Stock - - \$175,000.00 Surplus and Undivided Profits - - - \$ 57,468.61

Deposits - - - \$580,785.99

W. B. ALEXANDER, Vice-President.

A. D. FOSTER, Cashier.

EXHIBIT A



Let's Build it Back Like it Was

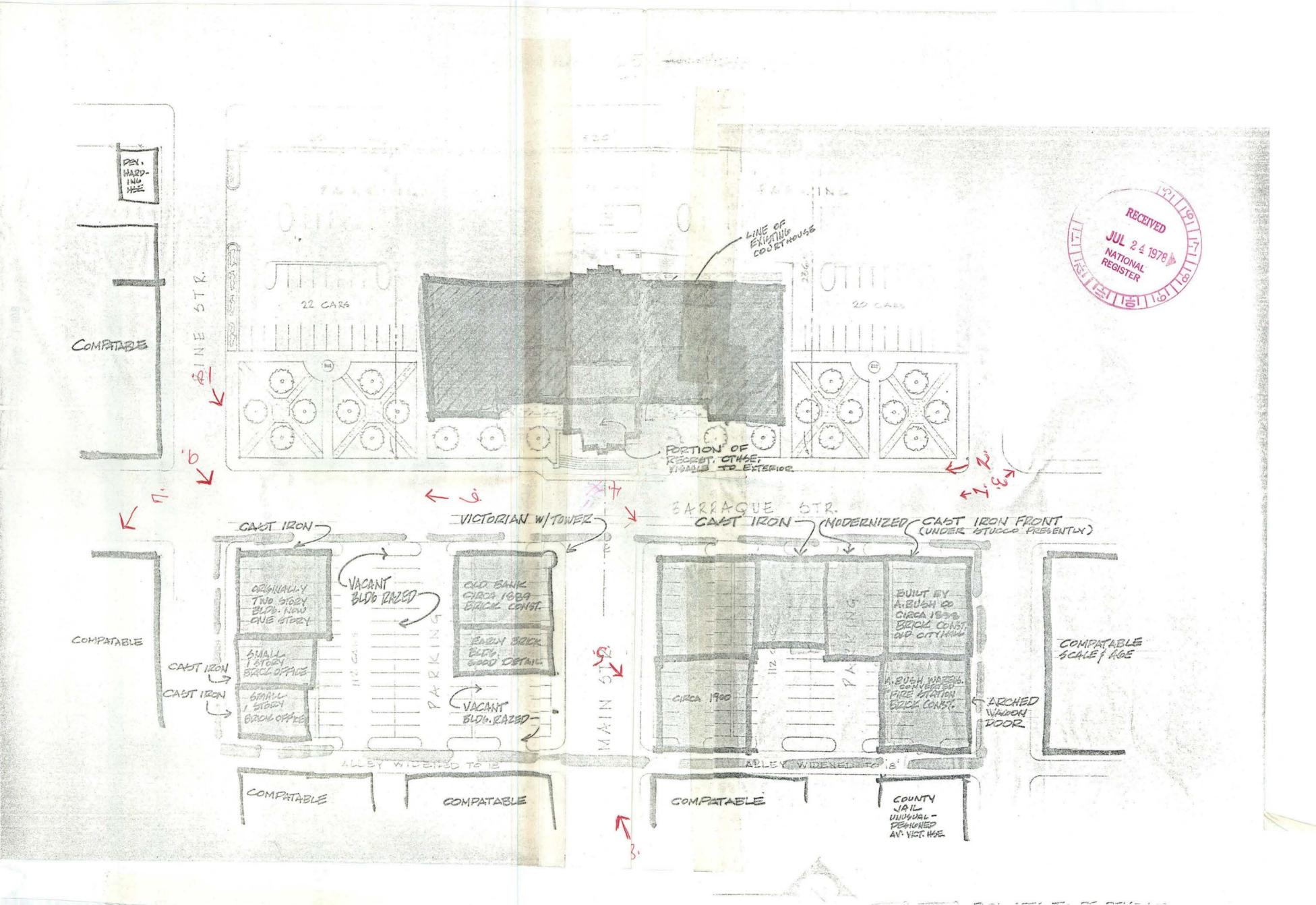
# **VOTE FOR**

The Old Courthouse Site
 for Construction
 for Building Tax

On April 12th

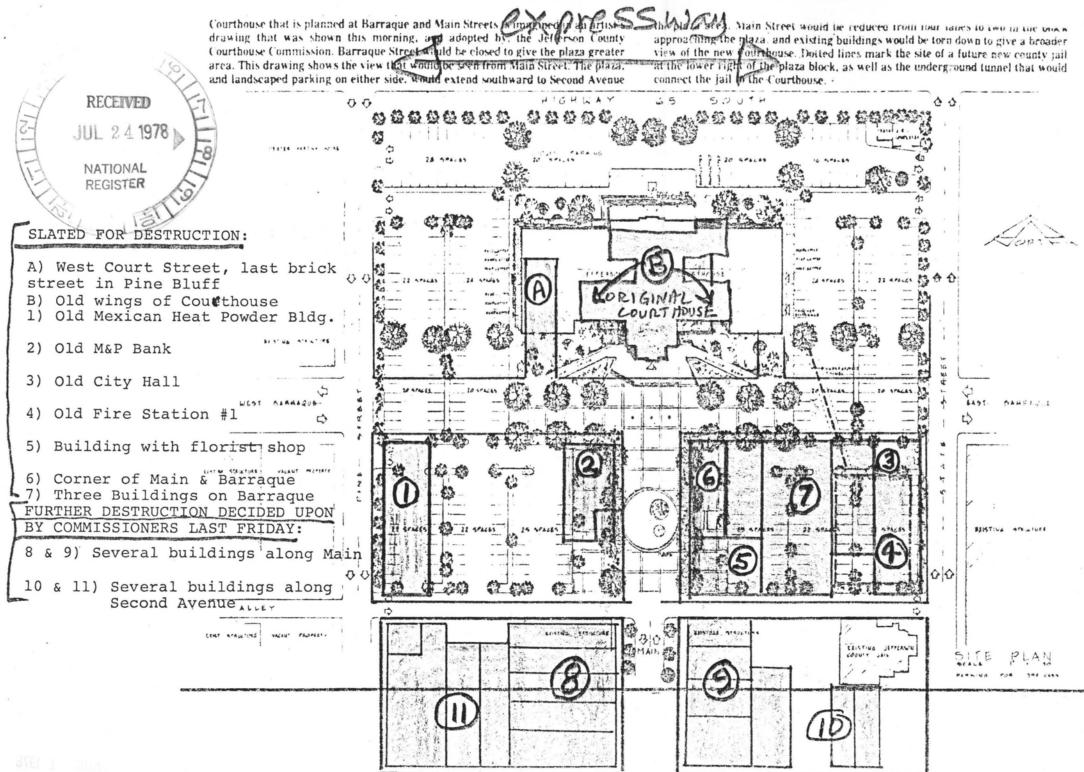
Place Stamp Here

Courthouse Restoration Committee, H. Roddy Jones, Natl. Bldg. Chairman.



Proposed glan

AUG 1 1978



SECOND AVE

the scale of the area more of a human one

A corner of the parking space borderin site of a new county jail. Burks said, in a: someday be replaced. An underground tu underneath the parking lot, he said

Ramps would provide access to the fac

A POOL WAS SUGGESTED AT the cer the open space, and alert drivers approsomething there and that they should turn The David O. Dodd statute at the rear s

and two memorials at the front would be n Landscape lighting would be installed

itself would be illuminated at night, he said He said the state Highway Department

that would result from the plan, so that ch

WILBUR WEST, COMMISSION CHAIF. a shortage of parking in the future and the more land

Burks replied "To me, it is obvious the

West said he was opposed to parking de they would spoil the view that was being pensive to build.

Jess P. Walt of Altheimer, a commissie in view of the fact a new jail might be built demand on parking.

Dr. W. L. Molette sud he disliked pari. two purchased now, since the price could o

Judge Joe T Hensley of Jefferson Cour. the building of the new Courthouse, come go all the way to Second

THE COMMISSION TOOK no formal v. there was agreement upon the plaza conce ary further southward to Second Avenue.

West then suggested that commissi courthouses to learn good and bad feature

Burks said he recommended visiting Waukegan, Markham and Maywood - 1 been praised by the National Clearinghou

The commission agreed to make an over and courtrooms in those facilities.

**JACK PERDUE JR., A COMMISSION** vice on commission procedures, and Hens he thought he could get legal services at Appraisals on the property to be acquir owners ample time to relocate elsewhere.

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ARKANSAS

Date Entered AUG 1 1978

Name

Location

Merchants and Planters Bank Building

Pine Bluff Jefferson County

Also Notified

Honorable Dale Bumpers Honorable Kaneaster Hodges, Jr. Honorable Ray Thornton

State Historic Preservation Officer Ms. Anne Bartley Acting Director, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Suite 500, Continental Building Markham and Main Streets Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

NR



Phone: (501) 371-2763

October 2, 1980

Mr. Jerry Rogers Acting Keeper of the National Register Heritage Conservation & Recreation Services 440 "G" Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20243

Re: Bram Building, Pine Bluff Historic

Dear Jerry:

The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program needs clarification from the Heritage Conservation & Recreation Services on the status of a structure in Pine Bluff, Jefferson County. The structure, the Bram building, was included in the Merchants & Planters Bank Building National Register nomination by description but not specifically by name. The owner of the structure, Mrs. Mary Alice Weaver is eager to have assurance that her structure is, in fact, properly listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

We have enclosed for your reference a copy of the nomination. The sections in the verbal description dealing with the Bram building have been highlighted and the photograph marked to show the location of the structure. In July of 1979 Dianna Kirk of our staff spoke with Linda Flynt of the publications section of your office and was assured that the building was included clearly in the nomination and was listed. Understandably, Mrs. Weaver would like written confirmation from your office of this fact. I will appreciate your taking a few minutes to look over this matter and informing Mrs. Weaver of your conclusions. If you think we need to make changes in the nomination in order to clarify the status of the Bram building, please let me know; my staff will proceed from there. Mrs. Weaver's address is: Mrs. Mary Alice Weaver, 2402 Cherry Street, Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71611.

Thank you very much for your attention to this and the other matters we bring to you. If you need any further information please contact either myself or Donna DuVall of my staff.

Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Joan Williams Baldridge State Vistoric Preservation Officer

JWB/DD/fb

Enclosures

A Division of the Department of Natural & Cultural Heritage An Equal Opportunity Employer



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

Phone: (501) 371-2763

October 6, 1980

Mr. Jerry Rogers Acting Keeper of the National Register Heritage Conservation & Recreation Service The Pension Building 440 "G" Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20243

Dear Jerry:

My October 2 letter to you regarding the Bram Building in Pine Bluff, Jefferson, County, Arkansas contains an error. Mrs. Mary Alice Weaver is not the owner of the building. Jefferson County is the owner, and Mrs. Weaver is working with the County on the development of it.

It is still very important to the project to determine that it is listed on the National Register. I apologize for any inconvenience my error may have caused and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely, Joan Milliams Baldridge State Historic Preservation Officer JWB/fb

cc: Mrs. Mary Alice Weaver

n No. 10-300 REV. (9/77)

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR . NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### ATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

In Co- Michigan - PE - Merchanica Merchan Do Not Silm

DATE ENTERED

### SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

# **NAME**

HISTORIC

Merchants and Planters Bank Building

# LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 100 Main Street	and menter will be	NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
CITY.TOWN Pine Bluff	VICINITY OF	CONGRESSIONAL DISTR Fourth	ICT
STATE Arkansas	CODE 05	COUNTY Jefferson	CODE 069

# CLASSIFICATION

0.TT0001				
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESE	NTUSE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	_XOCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
XBUILDING(S)	- X_PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	XCOMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	BOTH	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	_IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BÉING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	_INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:

## OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME			
Jim Hood			
STREET & NUMBER			
100 Main Street	•		
CITY. TOWN		STATE	
Pine Bluff	VICINITY OF	Arkansas	
ELOCATION OF	F LEGAL DESCRIPTION		
COURTHOUSE.			
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:	Jefferson County Courthouse		
STREET & NUMBER			
	1800 East Harding		
CITY, TOWN		STATE	
	Pine Bluff	Arkansas	
E REPRESENTA	TION IN EXISTING SURVE	YS	
TITLE			
DATE			
	FEDE	RALSTATECOUNTYLOCAL	
DEPOSITORY FOR			
SURVEY RECORDS			
CITY, TOWN		STATE	

### DESCRIPTION

CON	DITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK	ONE
EXCELLENT	DETERIORATED	UNALTERED	XORIGINAL	SITE
XGOOD	RUINS	XALTERED	MOVED	DATE
FAIR	UNEXPOSED			

#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Merchants and Planters' Bank is a large, rectangular brick building with a hipped slate roof. It is flanked by two smaller commercial structures of approximately the same age and of the Victorian Romanesque style.

Entrance to the two-story bank building is a triangular porch, inset on the northeast corner. The porch is composed of two rusticated arches resting on a capitaled marble column. Above the entrance is a three-story round tower, articulated between the second and third floors in molded terra cotta. The conical roof of the tower is shingled and topped with a finial.

Dressed granite banding articulates the building between floors. Windows on the first story are rectangular, while windows on the second floor are framed in masonry arches. Brick is of excellent quality, molded and rubbed with pencil joints. Doors are oak with bronze hardware. The terra-cotta detailing is of particular interest.

The interior of the Merchants and Planters' Bank has tin ceilings, encaustic tile floors, marble wainscots and good hardware. The floors are of fireproof construction. The building has four skylights with operable windows and two lightwells which also serve as ventilating shafts. The three original bank vaults, one of which is of notable design, are still intact. The second floor is reached by a hardwood stair with railing and balusters. Flooring is oak.

The attached building on the case side is a two-story store front divided into three bays on the first level and four on the second. The building has metal cornices and hood molds.

On the north side is a two-story building topped with an overhanging cornice of geometrical pattern. This structure is also detailed in terra cotta.

### FICANCE

STORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
70-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	_LAW	SCIENCE
,500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
_1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
_1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
×1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION
_1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	_INDUSTRY _INVENTION	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES

October 31, 1892

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

A-Thomas A. Harding, Little Rock

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Merchants and Planters Bank Building is a large brick structure featuring in its architectural design round turrets, arched windows, granite foundation and decorative brick work. In addition to its architectural significance, the Merchants and Planters Bank Building represents a large part of downtown Pine Bluff's commercial development.

On December 1, 1876, the Merchants and Planters Bank was formed for the purpose of acquiring the banking firm of Smart, Hudson and Company. President of the new firm was V. D. Wilkins with Gabe Meyer as vice-president and H. H. Hunn, Cashier. The Merchants and Planters Bank was organized under the laws of Arkansas with a capital of \$58,000. The bank was reorganized in 1889 with the capitalization increased to \$100,000. In 1891 a building was constructed to house the banking offices at 100 Main Street. A feature of the new building was a vault which contained a safe described as "of the screwlock pattern and having two revolving panels in the door, which, on being turned by a crank, made it absolutely burglar-proof." The installation of this vault and safe proved to be a good investment as a fire on January 24, 1892, destroyed the building and everything on the north half of the block between Barraque Street and West Second Avenue and Main and Pine Streets except Dewoody's drugstore which was protected by a firewall.

The bank officials immediately employed Thomas A. Harding, a Little Rock architect, to draw plans for a new building. Harding was in partnership with prominent Arkansas architect, Charles L. Thompson. In addition to the Merchants and Planters Bank Building, Harding designed six Arkansas State Parks and the Ouachita County Courthouse. In Little Rock he designed the Vinson House (National Register -), the Fones House (National Register -), and St. Andrews Cathedral.

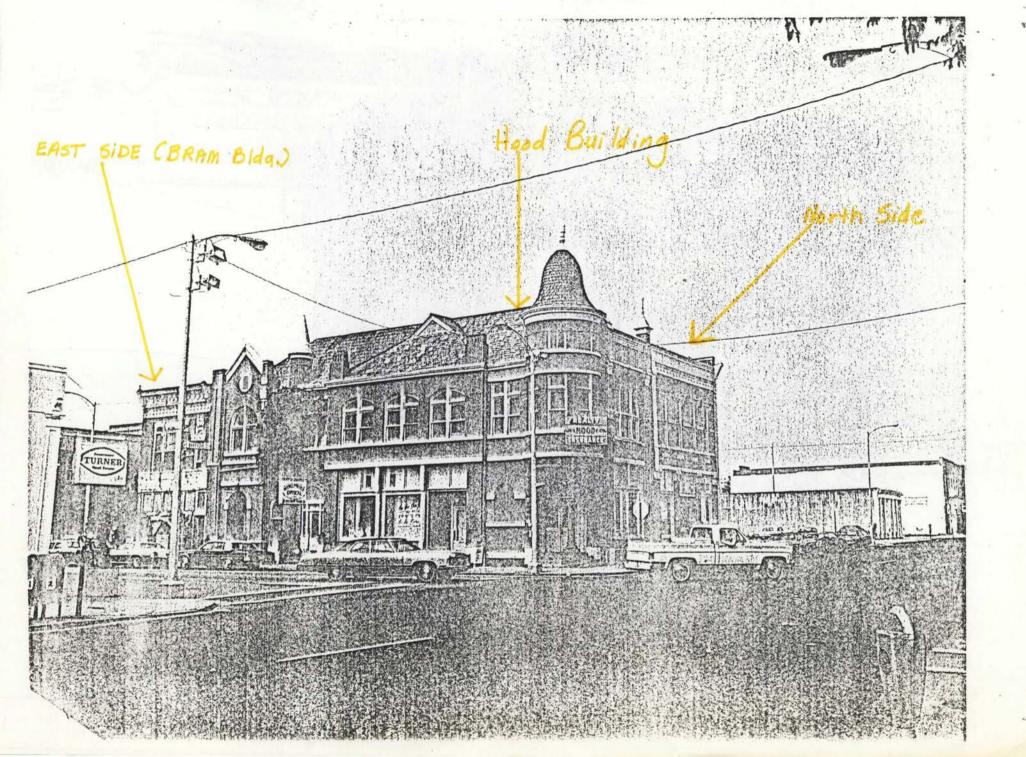
A contract was let to W. I. Hilliard of Pine Bluff and the new building was completed on October 31, 1892. The plumbing and gas fixtures were installed by F. A. Stanley with millwork furnished by John P. Haight. The interior fixtures of polished oak with brass railings were supplied by A. H. Andrews of Chicago, "well-known bank outfitters." The bank has a tile floor and entrance which consists of two marble columns "supported and arched" by massive blocks of Fourche mountain (Pulaski County) granite. The building was described as of modern bank architecture and, in exterior and interior adornment, as "one of the handsomest bank buildings in the South."

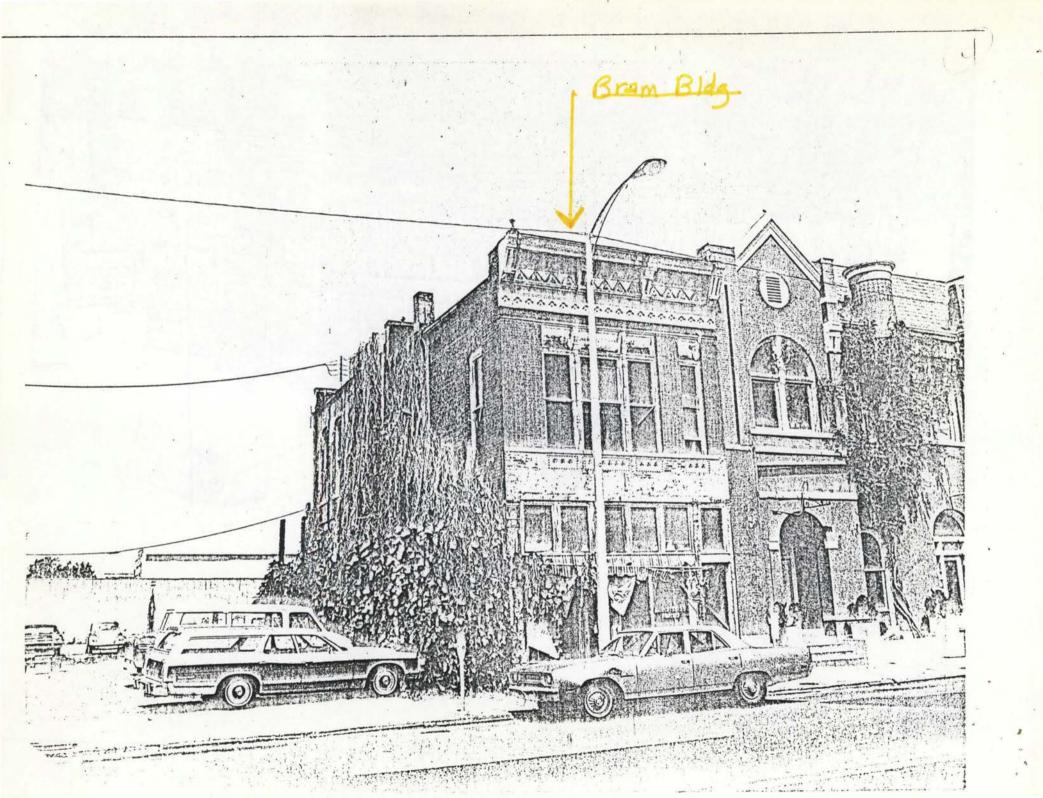
The Merchants and Planters bank was a victim of "The Great Depression" in 1930 after 60 years of continuous operation."

The exterior of the structure has not been altered. Jim Hood, the present owner, has taken considerable pride in the building and has maintained the exterior in excellent condition. The interior has been remodeled into office space for his insurance and real estate business. This building is considered to be of great significance to the community and state from an architectural and historic standpoint.

James Leslie       Description: Frezil Miller         DRGANIZATION       DATE         Arkansas Historic Preservation Program       December 1977         STREET & NUMBER       TELEPHONE         Suite 500, Continental Bldg., Main & Markham       501–371–2763         CITY OR TOWN       STATE         Little Rock       Arkansas         STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION         THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:         NATIONAL       STATE         Local       Local         The designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), 1         reveria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service         STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE         TITLE       DATE	The Weekly Press, Se The Weekly Press, De The Pine Bluff Press Press-Eagle, August Press-Eagle, January Press-Eagle, Novembe	cember 7, 1876. -Eagle, February 1 11, 1891. 26, 1892	, 1890.		
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A				QUADRANGLE	SCALE
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#### U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

### TELEPHONE REPORT

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1. CALL TO: FROM (Neme)

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

Donne Duvall

AR staff

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

Bram Blog. , Pine Blogf

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

They will send VBD

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

Growena

TITLE



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

Phone: (501) 371-2763

June 30, 1981

Ms. Beth Grosvenor National Register Staff National Parks Service Department of the Interior 440 "G" Street Washington, D.C. 20243

> Re: Merchants and Planters Bank Building Pine Bluff, Jefferson County, Arkansas

> > 1 A Lans

Dear Beth:

According to our records, on October 16, 1980 Donna DuVall, formerly of our National Register staff, spoke with you regarding the inclusion of the Bram Building on the National Register as part of the above-captioned nomination. The Bram Building is referred to in the Merchants and Planters Bank Building nomination (Section 7 -- Description, paragraph 1) as one of two smaller commercial structures that flank the bank. The building is again referred to in the last paragraph of the architectural description as a "...two story building topped with an overhanging cornice of geometrical pattern...". In accordance with the above-referenced conversation, let me take this opportunity to provide the required verbal boundary descriptions for the Merchants and Planters Bank Building and the Bram Building to facilitate verification of the latter's listing on the National Register. Please note that the description of the Merchants and Planters Bank Building includes the second flanking building attached to the west of the bank building and owned by the same individual that owns the bank building. Jefferson County owns the Bram Building.

Merchants and Planters Bank Building: Commencing at NE corner of Lot 4 in Block 21 of the old or original town of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, thence west 58 feet, thence south 100 feet, thence east 30 feet, thence north 20 feet, thence east 28 feet, thence north 80 feet to point of beginning. The same being located in the southeast fractional quarter, sections 32, township 5 south, range 9 west of the fifth P.M. together with all appurtenances thereunto belonging plus east 1 foot of west 2 feet of the north 100 feet of Lot 4 on Block 21.

Bram Building: South 20 feet of east 38 feet of north 100 feet Lot 4 Block 21 old town addition.

Enclosed is a sketch map indicating the relationship of the two properties and a plan of the relevant area of Pine Bluff locating the properties in the downtown plat.

	THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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	DATE ACTION TAKEN
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Ms. Beth Grosvenor Page 2 June 30, 1981

Sorry to have delayed so in forwarding this information. I hope it will be sufficient to flesh out the documentation of this nomination. Please feel free to contact me if additional data is necessary.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

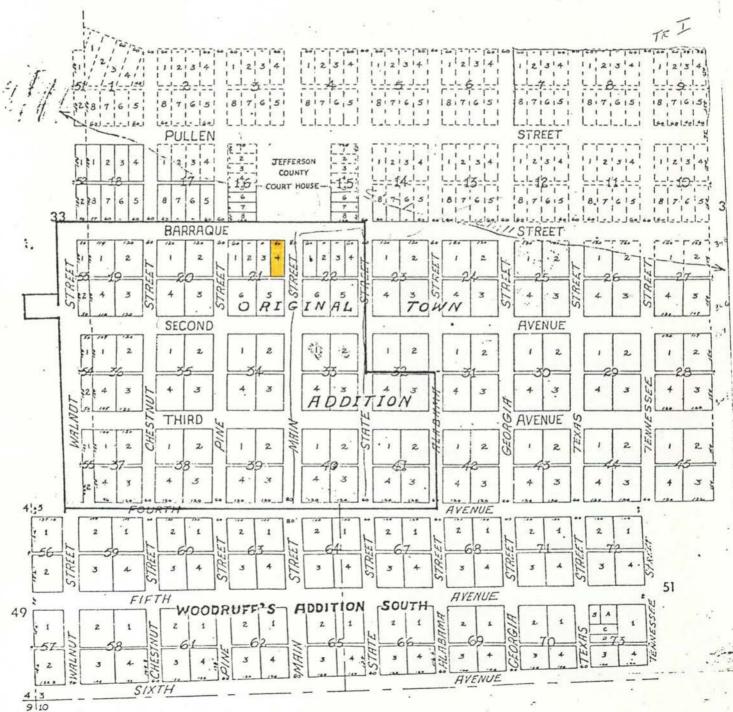
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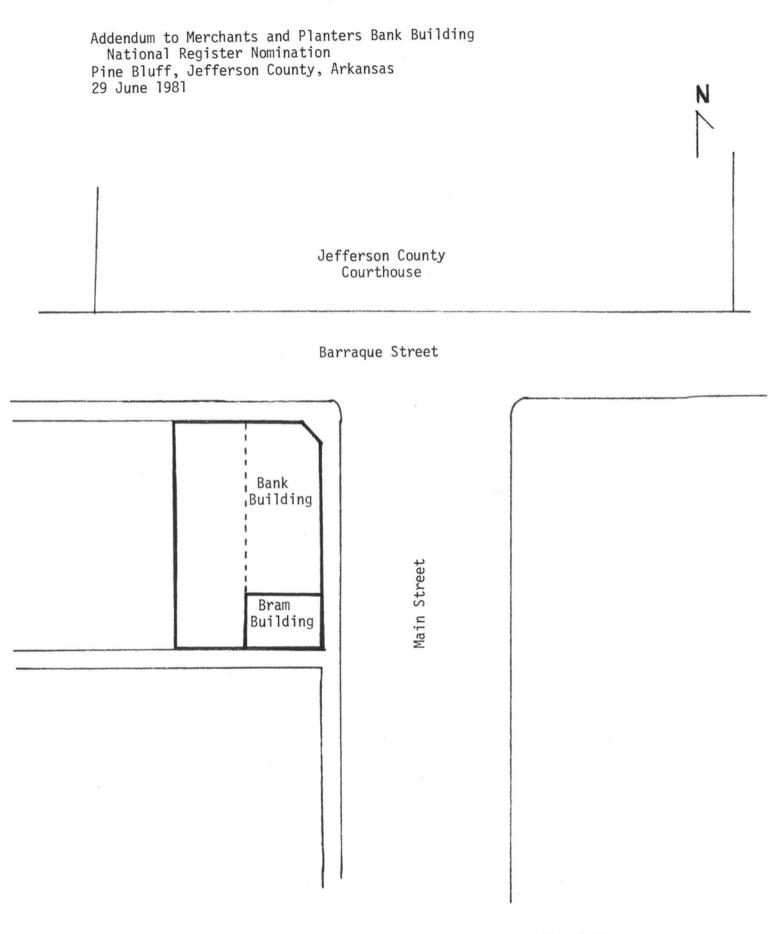
Ethel Goodstein Architectural Historian

EG/fb

Enclosure

Addendum to Merchants and Planters Bank Building<br/>National Register NominationPine Bluff,PINE BLUFF, JEFFERSON COUNTY, ARKANSAS<br/>Jefferson County,SE ¼ SECTION 32 TOWNSHIP 5 RANGE 9<br/>Arkansas<br/>29 June 1981





Sketch Map (Scale Approximate)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SE TELEPHONE REPORT	RVICE	DATE 18 82 TIME OF CALL	AM PM
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#### H32 (413)

JUL - 6 1983

Mr. Wilson Stiles Director, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Continental Building, Suite 500 Markham and Main Streets Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

#### Dear Mr. Stiles:

Thank you for your staff's inquiry of June 21, 1983, requesting confirmation that the <u>Bram Building</u>, Jefferson County, Arkansas, is included in the Merchants and Planters Bank Building nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

We are pleased to advise that the <u>Bram Building is included in the Merchants and</u> <u>Planters Bank Building nomination and that the property was listed in the National</u> <u>Register on August 1, 1978.</u> An addendum to the nomination dated June 29, 1981, was sent to our office clarifying the location of the Bram Building in relation to the Merchants and Planters Bank. A letter dated June 30, 1981, from Ethel Goodstein, Architectural Historian, includes a verbal boundary description of the two buildings, as requested by the National Register staff. As indicated by a telephone report dated January 8, 1982 recording a conversation between Don Brown of your staff and Beth Grosvenor of the National Register staff, the additional information was accepted by the National Register and the verification that the Bram Building was listed in the National Register was confirmed.

If we can be of further assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Carol D. Shull (Sed.)

Carol D. Shull Chief of Registration National Register of Historic Places Interagency Resources Division

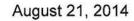
bcc: Southeast Regional Office 413 Reading File Record Center FNP:BSavage:mdj:06/30/83:343-9536

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN NR

Sys. 8 (Gen.) #8073

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Martha Miller Director

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars Cultural Center

Old State House Museum



Arkansas Historic Preservation Program



323 Center Street, Suite 1500 Little Rock, AR 72201

(501) 324-9880 fax: (501) 324-9184 tdd: 711

e-mail: info@arkansaspreservation.org website: www.arkansaspreservation.com

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Ms. Carol Shull Chief of Registration United States Department of the Interior National Register of Historic Places National Park Service 8th Floor 1201 Eye Street, NW Washington, DC 20005

> RE: Merchants and Planters Bank Building Additional Documentation – Pine Bluff, Jefferson County, Arkansas

16000600

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

If you need further information, please call Ralph S. Wilcox of my staff at (501) 324-9787. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Miller

Martha Miller State Historic Preservation Officer

MM:rsw

Enclosure

