Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

Arkansas
county:

Pulaski
FOR NPS USE ONLY
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Post Office built of sandstone on a pink Indiana granite base consists of a center pavillion three bays wide and four-storeys in height with the ground floor walls executed in rusticated stone, and capped by a bracketed entablature with a relatively low pitched hip roof having a flat top surmounted by wrought iron cresting. This center section has four chimneys, two on either side adjacent to the two three-storey two-bay wings, one on either side of the main pavillion. These two wings are capped with a dentillated entablature pluse a matching hip roof with a flat center section again surrounded by wrought iron cresting. These two wings have a projecting pediment bay in the center of either end of the building with one chimney on either side of this pediment in each wing for a total of four additional chimneys. All of the chimneys are executed in sandstone with complete cornicetype\_caps.

When first built the above was the complete structure, however, a few years later two additional one-storey two-bay wings were added to the building one on either end adjacent to the first two wings and projecting an equal distance on either side also equal to the distance the original two wings projected. These one-storey wings are executed in matching rusticated stone with the pink granite foundation and the other detailing duplicating perfectly the design of the lower floor of the original building. The one-storey wings, however, are flat roofed and capped with a parapet wall which matches the height of the window sills on the second floor of the original building.

All first floor openings have segmental arch lintels executed in rusticated stone. The second and third-storey windows are complete with sills and architraves in entablature fashion complete with cornice.

Interior woodwork was and for the most part still is natural finished with picture frame style architraves on doors and windows. The main staircase is U-shaped with an elaborate bronze metal balustrade with a wood handrail. The stair treads and risers are also metal. The floors on the first floor are executed in marble and terrazzo. All hardware and hinges are of heavy brass way and bronze.

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	
Pulaski	
FOR NPS USE ON	LY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MAY	7 1973

(Number all entries)

#### 7. Description Continued:

The building has a full basement under the original, as well as under the slightly later one-storey wings. The center pavillion projects to the rear three bays beyond the two side wings. Quality materials and construction are apparent in every detail of the building inside and out.

It is and was undoubtedly the most solidly constructed building of its vintage in the City of Little Rock. The fact that it has survived in reasonably good condition attests to the original quality of the construction. The architecture is basically very classical in appearance, but of Renaissance Classical or Italianate Renaissance style. Although the building has some Victorian design in the wrought iron cresting and the hardware and a few other details, this does not alter its basically symmetrical and very elegant proportions.



PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	le and Known)	71	
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	eck One or More as Appropr	iate)	The Ciberoff Red
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Conservation	Music	☐ Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in 1881, the Old Post Office Building was designed to serve the Little Rock area as a Post Office, Federal Courthouse, and Custom House. The entire first or main floor was used by the Post Office Depart-The second floor was used by various governmental offices which included the Collector of Internal Revenue, the Land Receiver, the Office of the Federal District Judge and the U.S. District Attorney. The third and fourth floors were devoted largely to the use of the United States District Court with additional rooms for judges, juries, and the Office of the United States This building ceased to be used as a post Marshall. office in 1932 when the present post office building was built. Today the Old Post Office building serves as the Armed Forces Examing and Entrance Station.

Access to the second and third floors was by stairs or the used of an extremely elaborate elevator in the east end of the building. The elevator, which blends perfectly with the Italianate Renaissance character of the building boasts an intricate wrought iron cage or passenger compartment. This elevator was one of the very first elevators erected in Arkansas and the oldest elevator in continuous use in the State.

It is significant to note that the Old Post Office is located in the center of a group of public buildings which, for this region, represent an unusual variety of architectural styles. One block away is the Greek Revival First State Capitol, a National Register property. Adjacent to the Old Post Office is the Victorian Pulaski County Courthouse with its Classical Revival annex.

NATIONAL REGISTER

SEE INSTRUCTION

The City of Little Rock, <u>Guide to the City</u>
of Roses for <u>Visitors and Citizens</u>.
Little Rock: <u>Guide Publishing Company</u>, 1890.

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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	
Pulaski	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
May ?	1973

(Number all entries)

#### 8. Significance Continued.

In the past ten years several proposals have been made concerning the ultimate desposition of this building, including demolition, and even presenting the citizens of Little Rock with another half city block of flat black asphalt for parking.

While the primary significance of the Old Post Office lies in its architecture and in the rarity of the Italianate Renaissance Architectural style, in Arkansas, it is widely accepted as an important landmark in the central business district of Little Rock.



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FORM 10-301 A NAT	IONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FOR	SW
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2. LOCATION STATE	county Pulaski	Little Rock
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PHOTO CREDIT USGS 7.5' Series Little Rock Quadrangle	1961	1:62,500
4. IDENTIFICATION  DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  This photograph was to		ing north.



Form 10-301 (July 1968)

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

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
OLD POST OFFICE AND CUSTOM HOUSE	The Government Building	MAY 7 1973
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Arkansas	Little Rock	
STREET AND NUMBER		

Second and Spring Streets

3. MAP REFERENCE				
SOURCE	DATE	SCALE		
USGS 7.5' Series				
Little Rock Quadrangle	1961	1:62,500		

REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW-



# UNITED STATES OF AMERICA GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20405

JUL 24 1972



Honorable Rogers C. B. Morton Secretary of the Interior Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

For info only FW AMO

The General Services Administration (GSA) is contemplating action that may result in the disposal of the old Post Office in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Contact with the Arkansas Planning Commission has revealed that the building has historical significance. The old Post Office is not listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and we understand that it has not been nominated for inclusion thereon. Executive Order 11593 specifies that GSA must exercise caution when considering actions that may result in transferal, sale, demolition or alteration of GSA owned property that might qualify for nomination to the National Register. The Executive Order also requires that GSA "refer any questionable actions to the Secretary of the Interior for an opinion respecting the property's eligibility for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places." Therefore, we are requesting that you evaluate the historic sign ficance of the Little Rock Post Office before we proceed.

Your cooperation is appreciated.

Sincerely,

ARTHUR F. SAMPSON ACTING ADMINISTRATOR

5-45706

H34-PHR

8/16/12

1, Wood 8/17 White 8/18

PARKS

F. SABles

W. Murragh

May 9/21

Hon. Arthur F. Sampson Acting Administrator General Services Administration

Dear Mr. Sampson:

Washington, D.C.

Thank you for your letter requesting an opinion as to the eligibility of the Old Post Office in Little Rock, Arkansas, for the National Register of Historic Places.

We have requested the Arkansas State Liaison Officer for historic preservation to undertake an evaluation of the historical significance of the building and to inform us asssoon as possible the intentions of the State regarding its nomination to the National Register. We will be pleased to inform you as soon as we hear from the State on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Acta Asst.

Secretary of the Interior

cc: Mr. William E. Henderson Director, Arkansas Department of Park and Tourism State Capitol-Room 149 Little Rock, Arkansas 72201) w/c inc.

Director, Bouthwest Region) w/cy inc. LI-Mr. Winge PHR) LOS) FMP:FBSarles:dvt:8-16-72

(BASIC PILES RETAINED IN PHR)

8-45706

1st Eurlis Bohlen fel 10 12/21 p. Mr. William E. Henderson
Director
Arkansas Department of Parks and
Tourism
State Capitol - Room 149
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
Dear Mr. Henderson:

Thank you very much for taking advance action on the Old Post Office in Little Rock, Arkansas. As discussed in our telephone conversation of August 8, 1972. The Acting Administrator of the General Services Administration has requested the Secretary of the Interior to assess the historic significance of the Little Rock Post Office. A copy of Mr. Sampson's letter is enclosed.

We must rely upon the State Liaison Officer to assist us in making these assessment of buildings under GSA's jurisdiction which may be disposed of. A determination by your office on the eligibility of The Little Rock Post Office for inclusion in the National Register is specifically requested. If found eligible, your intentions regarding its nomination to the Register would be appreciated.

Thank you again for your help and cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Robert J. Mullen National Register of Historic Places

Enclosure

cc: Director, Southwest Region
LI - Mr. Winge
PHR -

FNP:RJMullen:rls 8/14/72

BASIC FILES RETAINED IN PHR

Rewritten FNP: RMUtley: mrm 10/30/72

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Hon Arthur F. Sampson Acting Administrator General Services Administration Washington, D. C.

11/3/74

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Dear Mr. Sampson:

In further response to your inquiry of July 24 and our reply of August 16 concerning the historical significance of the Old Post Office in Little Rock, Arkansas, we are pleased to provide the following information.

Although the State of Arkansas has not yet nominated this building to the National Register of Historic Places, the State Liaison Officer, Mr. William E. Henderson, has indicated that it is eligible. The Arkansas State Review Committee, which includes qualified professionals in history, architecture, and archeology, concurs in this opinion.

Based on the State's determination, therefore, we believe that the property should be considered to meet the National Register criteria for purposes of Section 2(b) of Executive Order 11593.

We hope this information will be helpful to you.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. William E. Henderson Director Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism State Capitol - Room 149 Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Director, Southwest Region

Deputy Secretary of the Interior

of Parks

m 149
as 72201

#### ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE

ARKANSAS

Date Entered

MAY 7 1973

Name

Commercial Hotel

Pillow, Jerome Bonaparte, House

old Post Office Building and - Custom House

Location

Fort Smith Sebastian County

Helena Phillips County

Little Rock Pulaski County

#### Also Notified

Hon. John L. McClellan

Hon. J. W. Fulbright

Hon. John P. Hammerschmidt

Hon. Bill Alexander

Hon. Wilbur D. Mills

Mr. Steven Ruttenbeum, GSA

State Historic Preservation Officer Mr. William E. Henderson, Director

Arkansas Department of Parks &

Tourism

State Capitol - Room 149 Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Director, Southwest Region NRowland:mm 5/10/73 PHR

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