

Survey Number LR0031Owner KATVProperty Name Worthen Bank BuildingAddress P. O. Box 77

Original Name _____

Little Rock, AR 72203Location 401 Main StreetConstruction Date 1928

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Worthen Bank Building, constructed in 1928 on the corner of 4th and Main Streets, is representative of the conservation and permanence of the institution that built it. The structure is primarily a Neo-Classical design, but displays some stylized decoration suggesting the rising popularity of the Art Deco style. Rectangular in plan, the three-story Worthen Bank Building was constructed using a steel frame and then clad in limestone. The Main Street facade features three window bays and the primary entrance. Ten bays and a secondary building entrance line the Fourth Street facade. Pilasters separating the bays feature capital-like, bas-relief decorative panels. An unadorned cornice and parapet band the building and the original carved notation-- W. B. Worthen Co.--has been covered over by the present owners. Large stationary windows are flanked by casements throughout the building and, on the first and second levels, these are further emphasized by narrow pilasters again capped with decorative panels. The spandrel panels are ornamented with geometrically-patterned medallions. Windows on this level have been frosted, possibly during remodeling project in 1954 or 1962. Otherwise, exterior alterations have been slight.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Worthen Bank Company is Little Rock's oldest, continuously-operated financial institution, founded in 1877. Basically conservative and small during its early years, the bank had grown by the late 1920s to command the respect and admiration of the entire state's banking community. It was only fitting, then, that they chose the state's most distinguished building designer, George Mann, to design their new building. Although Little Rock's other banking firms were relocating to Louisiana Street sites, Worthen remained committed to Main Street, following a precedent set by their previous facilities at Main & Markham Streets (1904-1914) and Main & Capitol Streets (1914-1928). Worthen Bank occupied this building until 1969 when, having become the largest bank in the state of Arkansas, they moved to a new tower on West Capitol Avenue. The Worthen Bank Building was purchased by KATV, the local ABC affiliate, and they adapted the space to the needs of a television station.

Verbal Boundary Description Lot 1, Block 5, Original CityAcreage Less than oneQuadrangle Name Little Rock, ArkansasQuadrangle Scale 1:24000

UTM Reference

Zone 15Easting 566795Northing 3844795

OCT 1 - 1986

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Little Rock Main Street MRA
State Pulaski County, ARKANSAS

Substantive Review

Cover 1/22/87 RS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Albert Pike Memorial
Temple

Substantive Review

for Keeper

William B. Bushong 11/13/86

Attest

Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 11/13/86

2. Rose Building

Substantive Review

for Keeper

William B. Bushong 11/13/86

Attest

Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 11/13/86

3. Fulk Building

Substantive Review

for Keeper

William B. Bushong 11/13/86

Attest

Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 11/13/86

4. Gus Blass Department
Store

Substantive Review

for Keeper

William B. Bushong 11/13/86

Attest

Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 11/13/86

5. Taylor Building

Substantive Review

for Keeper

William B. Bushong 11/13/86

Attest

Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 11/13/86

6. St. Andrews Catholic
Cathedral

Substantive Review

for Keeper

William B. Bushong 11/13/86

Attest

Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 11/13/86

7. First Presbyterian Church

Substantive Review

for Keeper

William B. Bushong 11/13/86

Attest

Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 11/13/86

8. Worthen Bank Building

Substantive Review

for Keeper

William B. Bushong 11/13/86

Attest

Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 11/13/86

9. Donaghey Building

Substantive Review

Keeper

DOE/CIVIL OBJECTION

Attest

10. State Bank Building

Substantive Review

Keeper

DOE/CIVIL OBJECTION

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Worthen Bank Building (Little Rock Main Street
MRA)
Pulaski County
ARKANSAS

Substantive Review

Working No. 007 1 1086
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/2/88
Date Due: 11/1/86 - 11/15/86
Action: ACCEPT 11-13-86
RETURN
REJECT

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

Federal Agency: _____

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☒ NR decision

Reviewer's comments: *Founded in 1877, the Worthen Bank Company is Little Rock's oldest, continuously-operating financial institution. Designed by prominent local architect George Mann, the building is primarily Neo-classical with Art Deco influences.*

Recom./Criteria Accept - A, C
Reviewer Noble
Discipline Historian
Date 11/7/86
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"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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: _____



Worthen Bank Building -LR0031
Little Rock Main St. MRA
Little Rock, Pulaski Co.
Photographed by Sarah Brown, 1985
Negatives on file at AHPP

OCT 1 1986

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000028