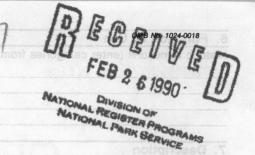
## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines* for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property	ton			
historic name Old Post Office	other			
other names/site number				
2. Location			vsical appearance.	cribe present and historic ph
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city, town Hot Springs				vicinity N/A
state Arkansas code	AR county	Garland	code AR	
3. Classification				
Ownership of Property	Category of Property		Number of Reso	ources within Property
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public-State	site			sites
public-Federal	structure			structures
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	object			objects
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Name of related multiple property listin	ng:			ributing resources previously
N/A			listed in the Nat	tional Register N/A
4. State/Federal Agency Certifica	ation			
Signature of certifing official  Arkansas Historic Prese  State or Federal agency and bureau  In my opinion, the property mee		e National Regi	ster criteria. See	Date continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official	ı			Date
State or Federal agency and bureau				
5. National Park Service Certifica	ation			
, hereby, certify that this property is:				
entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  determined not eligible for the National Register.	a my	Federn	-0-	4/12/20
removed from the National Register				
other, (explain:)		Cianature of th	o Kooper	Date of Action
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### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_7 Page \_\_\_1

#### Summary

The Old Post Office is a two story, steel and brick public building designed in the Renaissance Revival style. It is covered with a hipped roof and supported by a raised stone basement.

#### Elaboration

The Old Post Office is of steel frame construction, faced with buff brick, and two stories in height with a raised basement. Its plan is essentially rectangular, with a single story, flat roof historic addition attached to the rear of the original two-story building. A single brick chimney rises from the roof toward its western end. The hipped roof is covered with asphalt shingles and the flat roof on the rear addition has a built-up tar roof. The walls are faced with brick and stone, and the foundation is dressed in stone.

The southern or front facade is composed of four monumental wood windows symmetrically arranged around the central entrance. The facade is also divided horizontally into a brick-faced second story and a stone-faced first story and raised basement. The double-leaf entrance features pocket metal security doors to either side and a Florentine window transom above. The entrance is trimmed with stone voussoirs and a large, decorative keystone. The windows which flank the entrance are each trimmed in sandstone and filled with wood frame, combination casement/transom/sidelight windows. The wall space between is ornamented with limestone rusticated in simple geometric and linear patterns, stopping at the springing line of the arches, which are then physically and visually connected by a slightly projecting sandstone lintel. The second story features five evenly-spaced rectangular windows of identical size and design. Each is trimmed in sandstone with dog-ear crowns and identical jamb moldings which descend to a projecting sill and which are each terminated beneath by a regula and three triangular guttae. The brick in the wall around the windows and between the limestone below and the wood cornice above is laid in such a fashion as to produce a diamond-shaped diaper pattern. A thin, rounded band of projecting stone trim surrounds the building just above the second story windows, and atop the brick wall a tripartite stone frieze -- consisting of a leaf and tongue course beneath a dentil course which supports an egg and dart molding -- is finished by a projecting bracketed wood cornice with scroll-cut rafter ends and an integral copper gutter. The elevation is accessed by a large, stone exterior stair with curved walls at the street level and sloped stoops rising to the entrance.

The eastern and western elevations are virtually identical, with the exception of the fact that the central bay on the first floor and basement of the eastern elevation is an entrance, while the central bay on the western elevation is a window. Otherwise they both are three bays across, with basement windows capped with decorative pyramidal granite lintels, arched windows on the first floor of the south elevation, and rectangular windows on the second floor identical to those on the second floor of the south elevation. The frieze and cornice details seen earlier also continue around these elevations, as they do around the northern elevation.

The northern or rear elevation is identical to the southern elevation on the second floor with identical windows placed symmetrically across the facade. The first floor features the later 1909 addition, with its projecting cornice beneath a brick parapet roof on all of its three sides. It also is five bays across, featuring four symmetrically placed arched windows of identical sash configuration as the arched windows elsewhere on the building flanking a central arched entrance which now provides access to the building from the later (c. 1950) loading dock. The eastern and western elevations of the addition are each three bays long and also feature the same arched windows with the exception of the southernmost bay on the western elevation, which features an arched entrance accessed by a raised stone step platform.

The other exterior details on the building include elaborate scroll keystones over all arched openings, with the two entrances on the original building and the western entrance on the addition featuring even larger keystones. The decorative stone arch moldings over the windows are replaced by stone voussoirs over these three entrances

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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also. The moldings around the first-floor windows rest upon decorative fluted scroll brackets which frame the interstices between these windows and basement windows below. The single-story addition also features raised stone quoins at the corners.

The interior retains the original red Vermont marble in the lobby and staircase, including a variety of elaborately carved pilaster capitals and other details. The original quartersawn oak millwork for the postal windows and grilles is almost completely intact, as are such features as combination lock vaults, Tennessee pink marble in the bathrooms, and a postal inspectors' walkway with vision grilles and peepholes for the purpose of checking on the conscientiousness and honesty of postal employees. The single story rear section retains its original skylight with movable wood baffles.

The 1909 single story, flat roof rear section is an historic addition and is designed in an identical style. Otherwise, the building has undergone a few alterations, although mostly of a cosmetic nature. The red clay tile roof has been replaced with asphalt shingles, the wood casements on the second floor have been replaced with aluminum fixed glass, and the skylight in the first floor addition has been covered over with a ballasted roof. The arch windows have had the panes within the arch itself removed, but the original larger mullions remain.

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Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	D DE DF DG	
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	Cultural Affiliation	
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See continuounn sheet		
Significant Person		
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9. Major Bibliographical References	8. Statement of Significance
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Previous documentation on file (NPS):  preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested  previously listed in the National Register  previously determined eligible by the National Register  designated a National Historic Landmark  recorded by Historic American Buildings  Survey #	Primary location of additional data:  X State historic preservation office Other State agency Federal agency Local government University Other
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	See continuation sheet
Verbal Boundary Description	
	X See continuation sheet
Boundary Justification	
This boundary includes all the property historica	lly associated with this resource.
	See continuation sheet
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program	date February 13, 1990
street & number 225 E. Markham St., Suite 200 city or town Little Rock	telephone (501) 371-2763 state <u>Arkansas</u> zip code <u>72201</u>

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_8 Page \_\_\_1

#### Summary

The Old Post Office is the finest example of a Renaissance Revival design in downtown Hot Springs. Its abundance of elaborately carved and high-quality stone on the interior and exterior, coupled with the extraordinary craftsmanship required in the laying of exterior brick masonry and the assembly of the large fields of marble in the interior lobbies, elevates it to the status as one of the most expensive and labor-intensive structures in the city.

#### Elaboration

The Old Post Office, designed by Treasury Department architect James Knox Taylor in 1901, is locally significant as the most outstanding extant example of the early twentieth century Renaissance Villa/Classical Revival that swept over American architectural taste after the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago of 1891-93 -- in which the high style of most of the exhibition buildings proclaimed a grand and unapologetic return to the Classical European architectural traditions and a turning away from the earlier issue of establishing a unique, indigenous American style -- found particular favor in government commissions, and post offices in particular.

James Knox Taylor was Supervising Architect of the Treasury from 1897 to 1912. At the time, the Treasury Department was responsible for the design and erection of all public buildings around the country, and it was the Supervising Architect's duty to oversee all these commissions. Taylor, a native of Minneapolis, Minnesota, wielded a wide influence during this period. Though larger government commissions were frequently designed by private architects through the competitive bid process, the government found it more expedient and less expensive to assign the smaller commissions to the Supervising Architect. Such commissions almost always included local post offices, and hence Taylor designed postal facilities throughout the nation.

In 1901 Taylor announced a return to the "classic style of architecture" for government buildings. And though the Neoclassical would influence virtually every design his office produced, the federal government had yet to establish the policy (which it executed in 1915) that standardized all federal construction and design. Hence, Taylor's office tailored each design to its site and volume of activity, resulting in a different design for each community, and ultimately, a different interpretation of the Neoclassical as well.

An exhaustive survey of historic post office buildings in Arkansas has not been completed, and so an accurate count of the number of post offices designed by Taylor's office is not available. However, the two extant post offices known to have been constructed during this period, though similar in style and overall effect, are not comparable in extent of elaborate materials and detail. The Old Hot Springs Post Office stands as one of the most detailed and elaborate in the state. This difference may be attributable to the status which Hot Springs enjoyed in the early twentieth century as a national park, a popular American health resort, and playground for the wealthy.

Such ornament and expense, especially in the choice of such a quantity and variety of stone, inside and out, is also typical of this period in the history of American architecture (approximately 1890-1910), when the accrual of large personal fortunes combined with the lack of a federal income tax to produce the means and the demand for large, expensive commissions, even in the public realm. Many state capitols constructed during this period are of the finest materials and most grandiose design of anything in the history of American architecture, and not coincidentally, most are designed in the same Classical Revival idiom (e.g. Minnesota, Rhode Island, Arkansas, and Mississippi; a total of fourteen were either constructed anew or substantially re-designed during this period). The labor-intensive craftsmanship evidenced in the detailing of the exterior masonry and the extensive millwork and vast fields of marble on the interior clearly distinguish the Old Post Office as the finest extant public representative of this trend in Hot Springs.

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

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Hitchcock, Henry-Russell and William Seale, <u>Temples of Democracy</u>, The State Capitols of the U.S.A., (New York, 1976), pp. 215-219.

United States Postal Service, History of Post Office Construction, 1900-1940, (Washington, D.C., 1982).

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_10 Page \_\_\_1

#### Verbal Boundary Description

A part of Lot 16, Block 78 of the Hot Springs Reservation as surveyed, mapped and platted by the United States Hot Springs Commissioners and being more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the southwest corner of the City Park in Block 78 of the Hot Springs Reservation and formerly known as Cemetery Lot; running thence easterly along the north line of Convention Boulevard (nee Benton Street) 150 feet; thence northerly 235 feet to a point on the north line of the said Park 150 feet easterly of the northwest corner thereof; thence to the said northwest corner; thence along the west boundary line of said Park 262.7 feet to the point of beginning.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

50.	PPLEMENTARY 1	LISTING RECORD	
NRIS Reference Number: Old Post Office Property Name	90000547	Date Listed: Garland County	4/12/90 AK State
Multiple Name			
This property is listed in accordance with the the following exception the National Park Servi documentation.  Any Federal Signature of the Keeper	attached norns, exclusionice certifica	mination documentat ns, or amendments,	ion subject to notwithstand
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Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

National Register property file

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

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OTHER COMMENTS
Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to
Phone
Signed Date



OLD POST OFFICE
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS

OHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY

AUGUST, 1989

NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AHPP

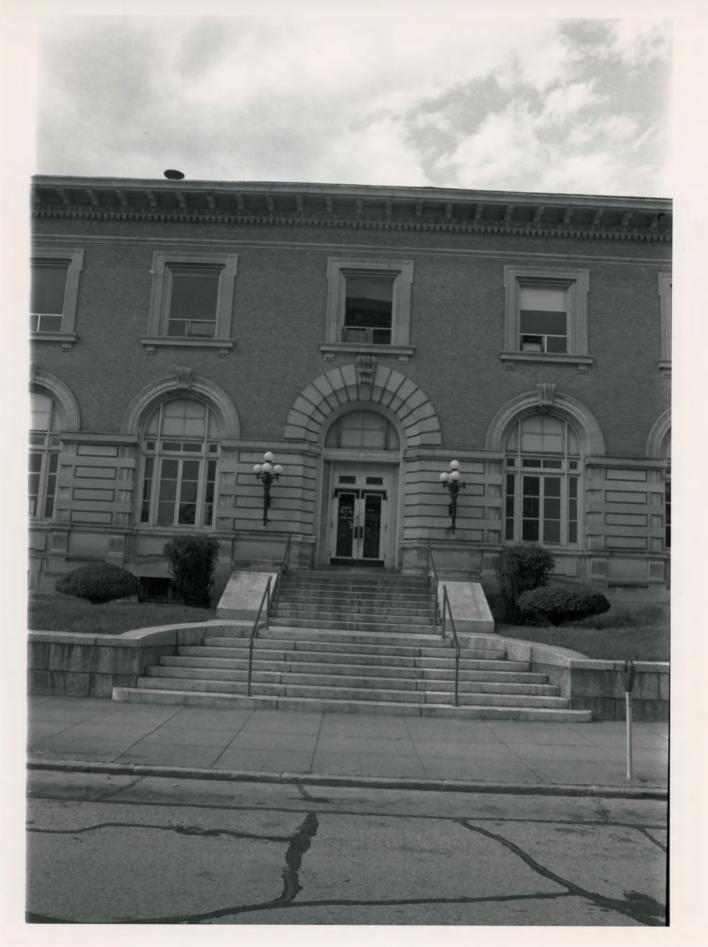
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OLD POST OFFICE
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY
AUGUST, 1989
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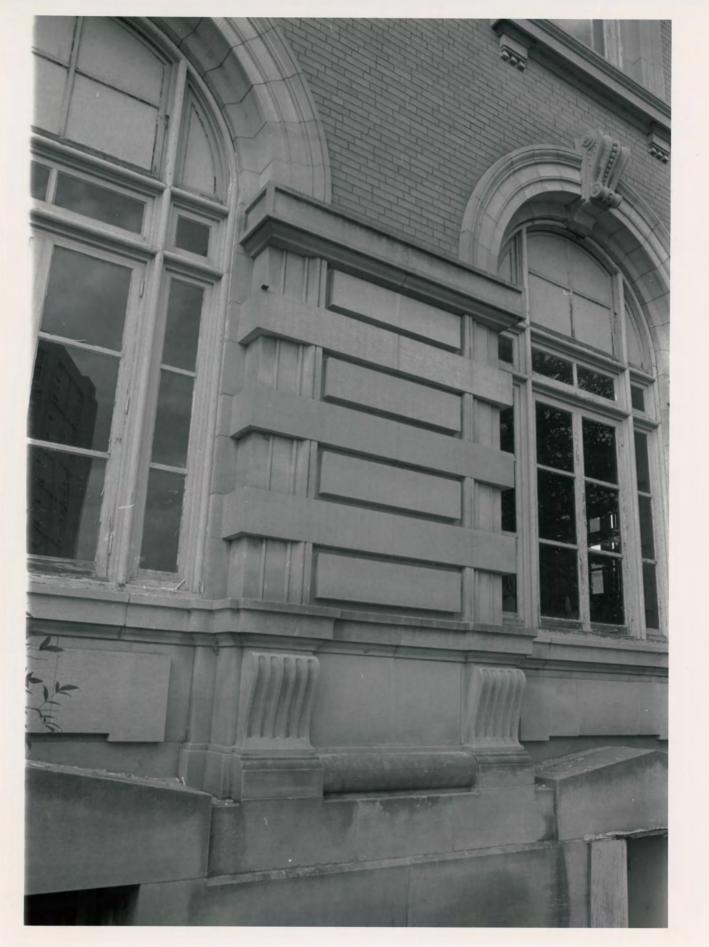
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PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY

AUGUST, 1989

NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AHPP

EXTERIOR FRONT ENTRANCE; VIEW FROM SOUTH



OLD POST OFFICE
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY

AUGUST, 1989

NEGOTIVES ON FILE AT AHPP

EXTERIOR STONE TRIM DETAIL



OLD POST OFFICE
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS
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OLD POST OFFICE
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY

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EXTERIOR WINDOW DETAIL



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HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS
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NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP
EXTERIOR CARTOUCHE DETAIL



OLD POST OFFICE

HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY

AUGUST, 1989

NEGHTIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

EXTERIOR CARTOUCHE DETAIL



OLD POST OFFICE
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY
AUGUST, 1989
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP
EXTERIOR WINDOW DETAIL



OLD POST OFFICE
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY
AUGUST, 1989
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP
EXTERIOR CARTOUCHE DETAIL



OLD POST OFFICE

HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS

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AUGUST, 1989

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

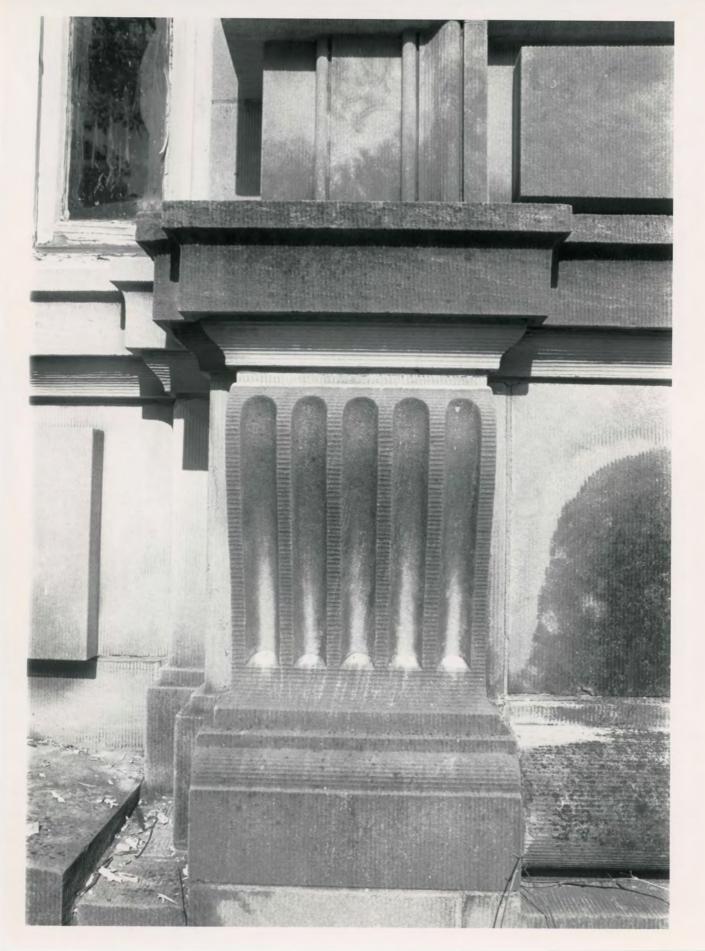
EXTERIOR STAIRWAY DETAIL



OLD POST OFFICE
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY
AUGUST, 1989
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP
EXTERIOR LANTERN DETAIL



OLD POST OFFICE
HOT SPRINGS, ARKAWSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY
AUGUST, 1989
NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AHPP
BASEMENT ENTRANCE DETAIL



OLD POST OFFICE

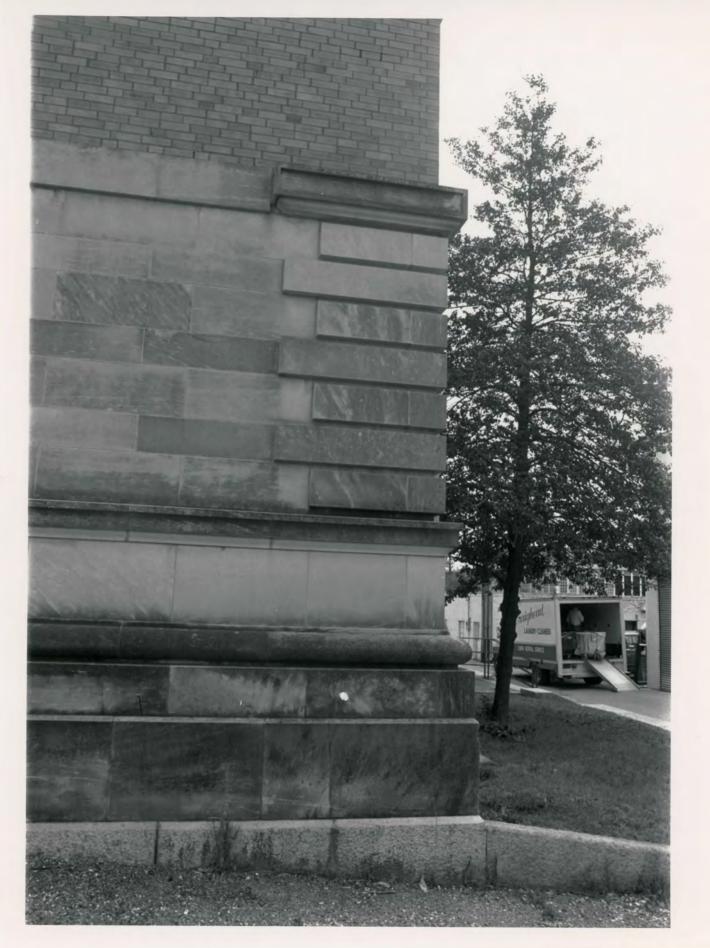
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY

AUGUST, 1989

NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AHPP

EXTERIOR STONE TRIM DETAIL; CONSOLE



OLD POST OFFICE

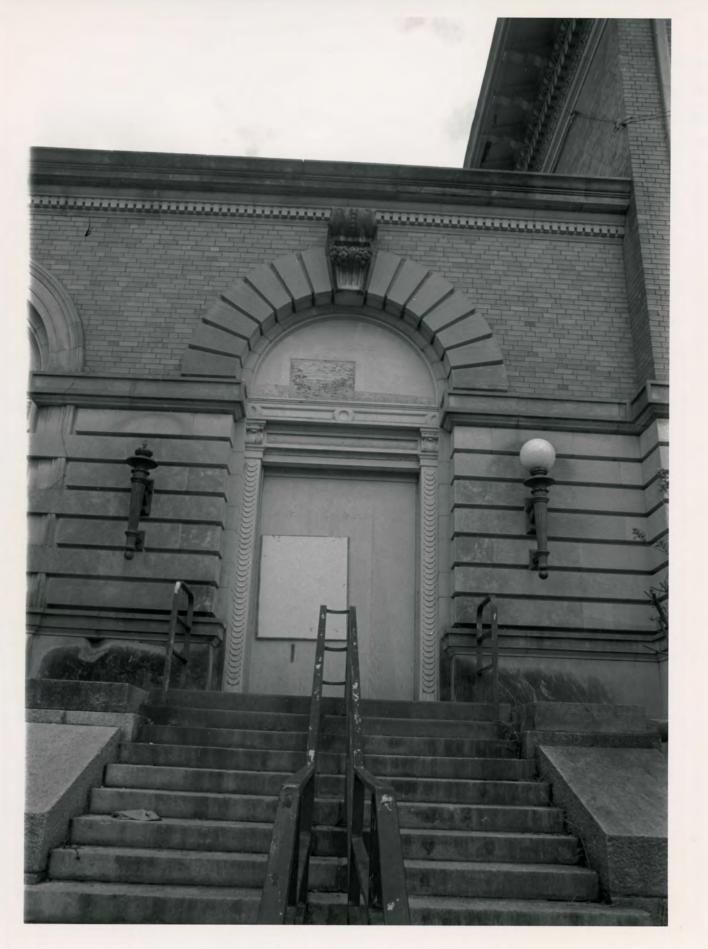
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY

AUGUST, 1989

NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AMPP

EXTERIOR STONE TRIM DETAIL



OLD POST OFFICE
HOT SPRINGS, ARKAWSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY
AUGUST, 1989
NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AHPP
VIEW FROM WEST; DOOR DETAIL



OLD POST OFFICE HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY AUGUST, 1989 NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AHPP VIEW FROM NORTHWEST



OLD POST OFFICE HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY AUGUST, 1989 NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AHPP VIEW FROM SOUTHEAST



OLD POST OFFICE

HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY

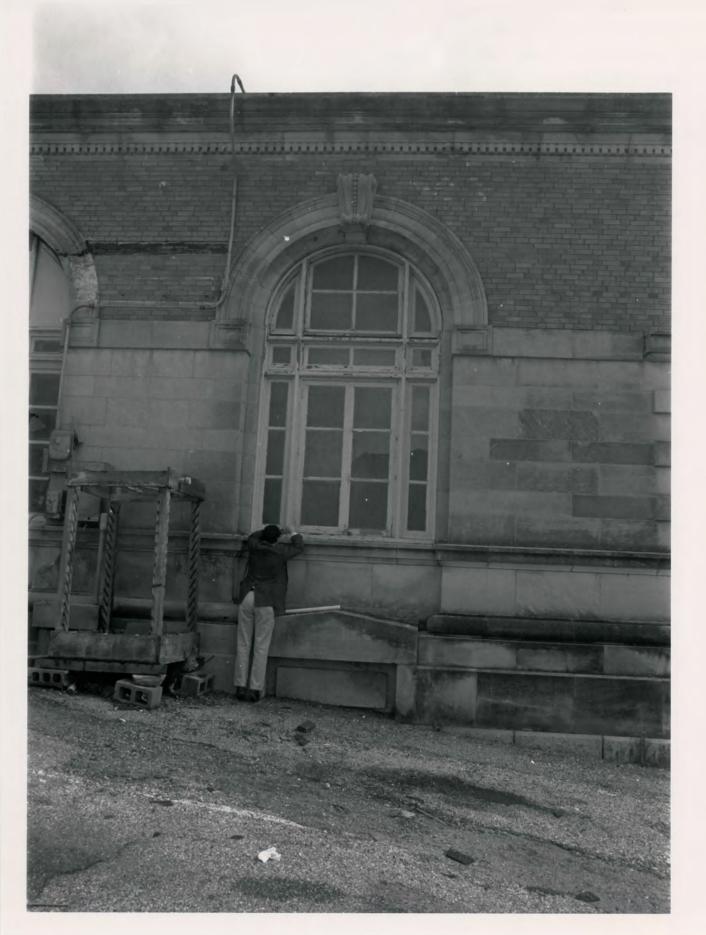
AUGUST, 1989

NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM NORTH



OLD POST OFFICE
HOT SPRINGS, ARKAWSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY
AUGUST, 1989
NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AHPP
EXTERIOR BULKHEAD CROWN DETAIL



OLD POST OFFICE

HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY

AUGUST, 1989

NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AHPP

EXTERIOR WINDOW DETAIL



OLD POST OFFICE HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY AUGUST, 1989 NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AHPP EXTERIOR BASEMENT ENTRY



OLD POST OFFICE HOT SPRINAS, ARKANSAS PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY AUGUST, 1989 NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AHPP INTERIOR WINDOW PETRIL



OLD POST OFFICE
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY

AUGUST, 1989

NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AHPP

INTERIOR STAIRWELL ENTRY DETAIL



OLD POST OFFICE
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY
AUGUST, 1989
NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AHPP
INTERIOR LOBBY CUSTOMER WINDOW DETAIL



OLD POST OFFICE HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY AUGUST, 1989 NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AMPP INTERIOR LOBBY DETAIL



OLD POST OFFICE HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY AUGUST, 1989 NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AHPP INTERIOR SAFE INNER DOOR



OLD POST DEFICE
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY
AUGUST, 1989
NEW ATIVES ON FILE AT AHPP
INTERIOR LOBBY



OLD POST OFFICE HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY AUGUST, 1989 NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AHPP INTERIOR VANITOR'S DOOR



OLD POST OFFICE
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY
AUGUST, 1989
NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AHPP
INTERIOR VAULT DOOR



OLD POST OFFICE HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY AUGUST, 1989 NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AHPP INTERIOR TELLER WINDOW



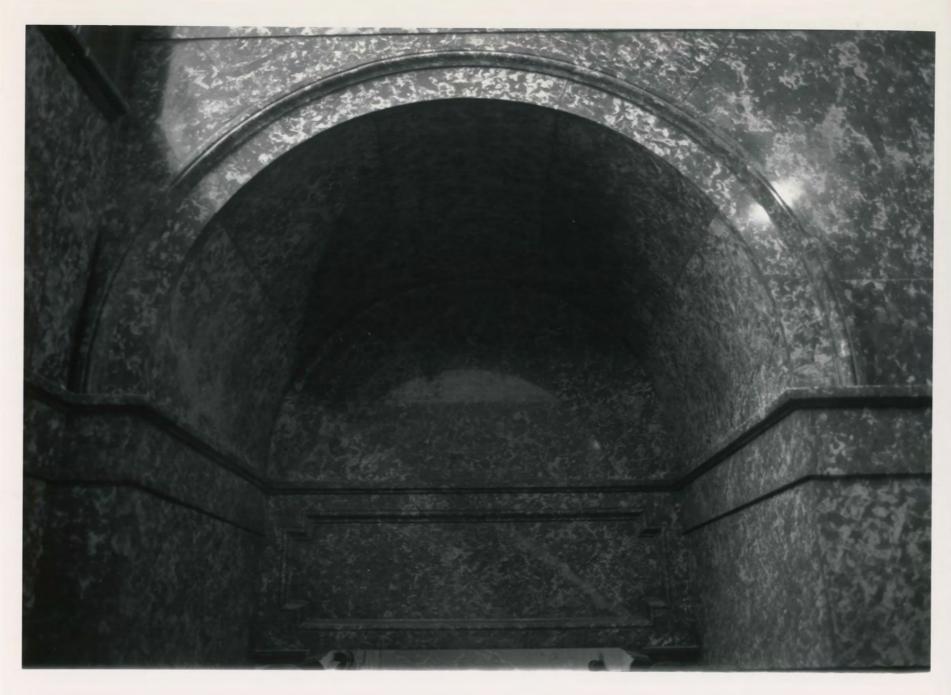
OLD POST OFFICE
HOT SPRINGS, GARLAND CO, ARKAWSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY
AUGUST, 1989
NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AHPP
INTERIOR WOOD COLUMNS



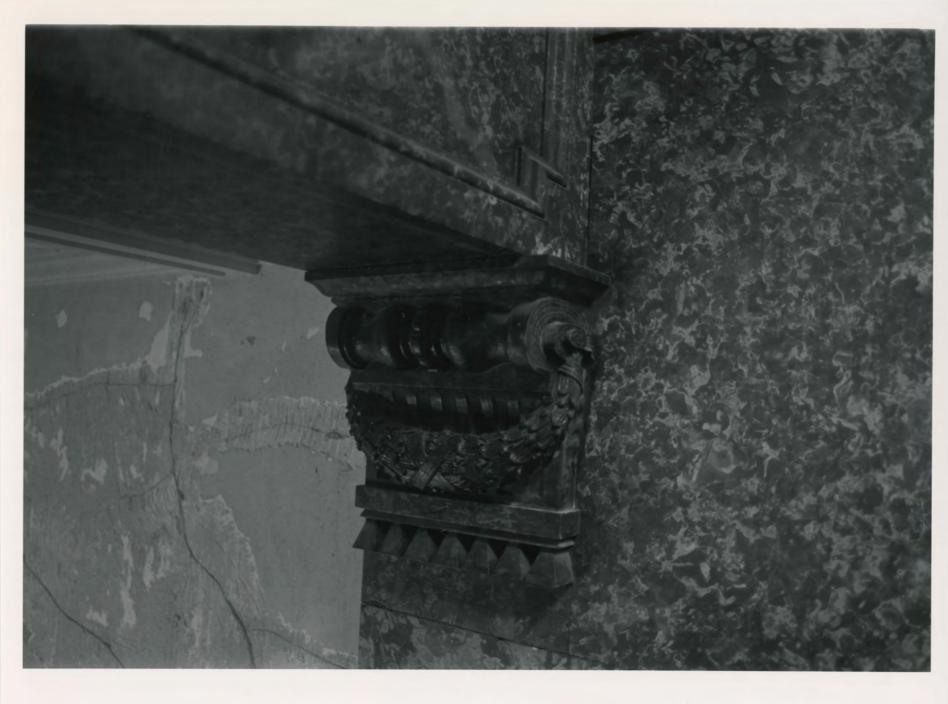
OLD POST OFFICE
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY
AUGUST, 1989
NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AHPP
INTERIOR SCULPTURE NICHE



OLD POST OFFICE
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY
AUGUST, 1989
NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AMPP
INTERIOR DOOR



OLD POST OFFICE
HOT SORINGS, ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY
AUGUST, 1989
NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AHPP
INTERIOR VAULT DETAIL; STAIRWELL



OLD POST OFFICE
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY
AUGUST, 1989
NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AHPP
INTERIOR COLUMN DETAIL



OLD POST OFFICE

HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY

AUGUST, 1989

NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AHPP

INTERIOR DOORWAY



ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

February 22, 1990



Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1100 "L" Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

RE: Old Post Office - Hot Springs

Dear Carol:

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

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathy Buford

State Historic Preservation Officer

CB/KS/lss

Enclosures

