

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received AUG 2 1983

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic Benton County National Bank

and/or common Bentonville City Hall

## 2. Location

street &amp; number 123 West Central N/A not for publication

city, town Benton City N/A vicinity of

state Arkansas code 05 county Benton code 007

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Bentonville City

street &amp; number 123 West Central

city, town Bentonville N/A vicinity of state Arkansas

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Benton County Court House

street &amp; number Courtsquare

city, town Bentonville state Arkansas

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no N/Adate ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

### Condition

☒ excellent

☐ good

☐ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered

☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

### SUMMARY

Built in 1906, the Benton County National Bank was designed by Albert Oscar Clark, a prominent Bentonville architect. Based on the Roman temple form, arches are the reoccurring design element of the building. Both the interior and exterior are beautifully detailed, the latter being highlighted by a domed skylight and a colorfully tiled floor.

### ELABORATION

The Benton County National Bank, a rectangular one story building with an imposing Roman temple front, was designed by Albert Oscar Clark in 1906. Located on the south side of Central Street near the downtown square of Bentonville, the building's west elevation is a party wall, as the bank is at the corner of a block of storefronts.

The building has three symmetrical elevations and a flat roof, in the center of which is a domed skylight. A tall parapet with stone coping, which is stepped on the front facade, disguises the dome. The Roman temple front of the Benton County National Bank is supported by four polished marble columns with modified Corinthian stone capitals with moulded bases resting upon stone plinths. Directly behind the two end columns are square pilasters with identical detailing. The building is set upon a podium, with steps between the stone column bases on the front, and rusticated stone on the side and rear elevations. The columns support a plain entablature above which is a bracketed projecting cornice. Four of the brackets are larger than the rest and are adorned with acanthus leaves. The tympanum is embellished with a pattern carved in relief. The front facade is faced with dressed stone, while the remaining elevations are brick. The central entrance consists of double doors with glass windows, and a fixed, single paned arched window above. Two windows, one on each side of the doorway, duplicate the fenestration of the entrance. The fixed portion of each is identical to that above the door, and the bottom portion of both windows are divided by mullions into three vertical sections. A flat-roofed rectangular office, equal in width but approximately half the height of the temple form extends from the rear of the building. The rear elevation of the office has three double-hung windows, one of which is smaller than the others, a door with a transom and three small basement windows, all with segmental brick relieving arches. The full height portion of the rear elevation, which rises above the roof of the office, has two arched fenestrations like those on the front facade. The side wall of the office joins that of the main portion of the building. Because of the rear office the east elevation (side) is of two heights. The portion corresponding with the office has two double-hung windows with brick relieving arches. The other portion of the east elevation that is equal

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Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

in height with the front facade, has five arched windows, equally spaced side by side, of the same type, size, and height as those on the front of the bank. A continuous horizontal stone band intersects with the five windows at their midpoint. The arched surround of the window is rusticated brick and a narrow projecting brick band follows the line of the stone band and window surrounds. A continuous stone band that marks the intersection of the roof slope and parapet runs the entire length of the side elevation.

Highlighting the finely detailed interior is a domed circular skylight. Though the walls and ceilings are plaster, wood trim was used extensively to delineate the interior's many arches. Wood arches, coinciding with the windows of the east and rear elevations adorn the rear end partition and west wall. All woodwork is original, as is the glazed brick fireplace of Craftsman influence. A highly decorative floor of locally produced tile is laid with a colorful starburst design beneath the skylight. The majority of the floor is laid in white tile with regular spaced pattern and decorative borders. Positioned between the arches on both side walls are wood pilasters with Ionic capitals. On either end of the skylight, the walls are arched and the ceiling vaulted. The rear office, which is more simply detailed, is highlighted by a green tile fireplace.

Alterations to the building include the addition of a partition at the rear end of the lobby, the details of which echo those of the rear wall. Behind the partition are restrooms and an office. The Benton County National Bank Building now serves as the city's courtroom.



## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1906 **Builder/Architect** Albert Oscar Clark

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

#### SUMMARY

The Benton County National Bank building was constructed in 1906 to house one of the early banking institutions of Bentonville. It is an outstanding design of Albert Oscar Clark, an architect with offices in nearby Rogers. Clark moved to northwest Arkansas in 1904 after having successfully practiced his craft in St. Louis, Missouri. Many of Clark's finest designs are in the classical mode and include three National Register properties in Benton County (Applegate Drugstore, Bank of Rogers and the Massey Hotel). The original construction cost of the Benton County National Bank was 5,700 dollars. The bank served a community which in 1906 was strongly agrarian. Northwest Arkansas during the later portion of the 19th century and the first decades of the 20th century was a heavy apple producer. Throughout Benton County were storage and canning facilities for apples and the other fruits which did so well in the area. Evaporators and cider plants were in abundance as well. It was this large fruit production industry and those that worked in it that served as the Benton County National Bank's clientele. In July of 1930, the First National Bank of Bentonville consolidated with the Benton County National Bank. However, by December of that same year the bank had closed its doors, fearing a run by depositors. In 1934, the building was sold to the city of Bentonville and has since served as office space. Restoration work undertaken in 1981 and 1982, provides an ideal space to house the municipal court.



## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Cahoon, M. O., "Albert O. Clark, Architect," (a report for Preservation & Restoration class), Univ. of Ark., 1980.

Hoback, Richard. Personal interview conducted April 27, 1982.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Bentonville South, Ark.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 15 391500 4025690  
Zone Easting Northing

B                    
Zone Easting Northing

C                  

D                  

E                  

F                  

G                  

H                  

Verbal boundary description and justification

Parts of Lot 119 & 120; Original Town - *See Deed*

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ryoichi Takahashi (ed. by the staff of the AHPP)

organization Community Planning, U. of Ark.

date July 28, 1983

street & number 724 Maple

telephone 575-5659

city or town Fayetteville

state Arkansas

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

   national    state X local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title SHPO

date 7-29-83

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Alonzo Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 9/1/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Benton County National Bank  
Benton County  
ARKANSAS

Working No. AUG 2 1983  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84  
Date Due: 9/1/83 9/16/83  
Action: ACCEPT 9/1/83  
RETURN  
REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in the  
National Register

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

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

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_  
Discipline \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ 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

- |                                    |                                       |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good      | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair      | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |

Check one

- ☐ unaltered  
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site  
☐ moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_

*Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet*





Benton County National Bank  
Bentonville, Benton County  
Photographed by Alice Jones  
February 1983  
Negative on file at AHPP  
Viewed from the Northeast

Negative on file at AHPP  
Viewed from the Northwest







Benton County National Bank  
Bentonville, Benton County  
Photographed by Alice Jones  
February 1983

Negative on file at AHPP

Viewed from the Northwest

Column Detail



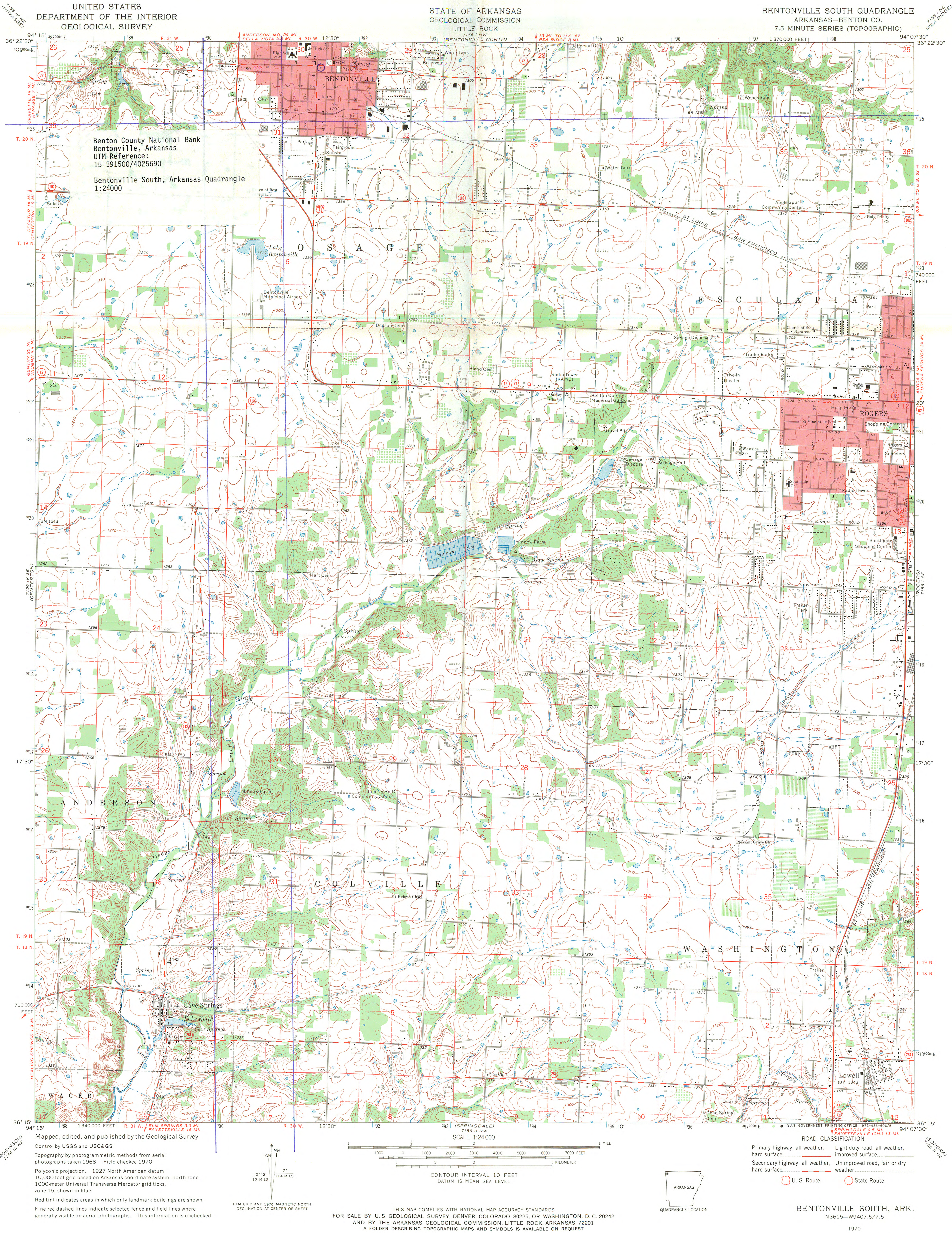
Benton County National Bank  
Bentonville, Benton County  
Photographed by Alice Jones  
February 1983  
Negative on file at AHPP  
Interior



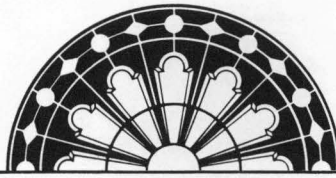


Benton County National Bank  
Bentonville, Benton County  
Photographed by Alice Jones  
February 1983  
Negative on file at AHPP  
Interior









ARKANSAS  
HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
PROGRAM

July 29, 1983

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: Benton County National Bank  
Bentonville  
Benton County

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination for the Benton County National Bank in Benton County. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

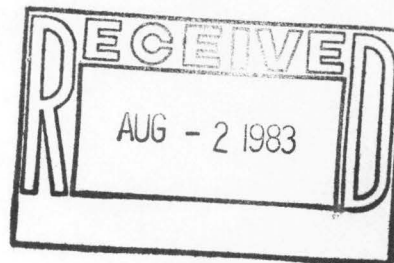
Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Wilson Stiles  
State Historic Preservation Officer

WS/AJ/sg

Enclosure/s



# WARRANTY DEED

(CORPORATION)

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That Rogers Investment Company  
a corporation organized under and by virtue of the laws of the  
State of Arkansas, by its President and Secretary,  
duly authorized by proper resolution of its Board of Directors,  
for the consideration of the sum of

Sixty Five Thousand-----Dollars,  
in hand paid by The City of Bentonville, Arkansas

the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, does grant, bargain,  
sell and convey unto the said City of Bentonville, Arkansas

and unto its ~~heirs and assigns~~ assigns forever, the following described

land, situate in the County of Benton  
State of Arkansas, to-wit:

RECEIVED

JUL 29 1983

AHPP

571 513

FILED FOR RECORD

At 4 O'Clock P.M.

MAY 5 1981

JOSEPHINE R. HEYLAND

Clerk and Recorder  
BENTON COUNTY, ARK.

Part of Lots 119 and 120 Original Town, now City of Bentonville,  
Arkansas, more particularly described as follows: Beginning at  
the Northwest corner of Lot 119 running thence South 165 feet  
to the Southwest Corner of Lot 120, thence East 82 1/2 feet to  
the Southeast corner of Lot 120, thence North 40 feet; thence  
West 37 feet; thence North 125 feet to North Line of Lot 119;  
thence West 45 1/2 feet to the point of beginning; also any  
rights the grantor has in in the property located east of  
the aforementioned property. This conveyance is subject to  
the rights that owners of the adjoining building on the west  
may have in the west wall of the building located on the  
above described property.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD The same unto the said City of Bentonville, Arkansas  
and unto its ~~heirs and assigns~~ assigns forever,  
with all appurtenances thereunto belonging. And said corporation hereby covenants with the said grantee  
that it will forever warrant and defend the title to said lands against all lawful claims whatever.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, The name of the grantor is hereunto affixed by its President and its seal  
affixed by its Secretary, this 1st day of May, 1981

ROGERS INVESTMENT COMPANY

THIS INSTRUMENT BECAME BY  
J. F. ROBINSON, President

By J. F. Robinson President  
By Alberta C. Robinson Secretary

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

State of Arkansas  
County of Washington

ss.

On this 1st day of May, 1981, before undersigned, a  
Notary Public, duly commissioned, qualified and acting, within and for the said County and State, appeared in  
person the within named J.F. Robinson and Alberta C. Robinson  
to me personally known, who stated that they were the President and Secretary  
of the Rogers Investment Company a corporation,  
and were duly authorized in their respective capacities to execute the foregoing instrument for and in the  
name and behalf of said corporation, and further stated and acknowledged that they had so signed, executed  
and delivered said instrument for the consideration, uses and purposes therein mentioned and set forth.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal this 1st day of  
May, 1981  
My commission expires  
Sandi Atkins  
Notary Public

11-15-81