

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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

For HCRS use only

received

DEC 19 1980

date entered

1. Name

historic The Terry Block Building

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 101-103 North Main Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Bentonville

N/A vicinity of

congressional district

3rd

state Arkansas

code 05

county Benton

code 007

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name G & S Partnership

street & number P.O. Box 201

city, town Bentonville

N/A vicinity of

state Arkansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.

Benton County Courthouse

street & number Public Square

city, town Bentonville

state Arkansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date

federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input checked="" 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

The Terry Block building, constructed in 1888, is located on the southwest corner of Bentonville's town square. Sited in the midst of a downtown commercial and municipal center, the Terry Block sits directly across the street from the Benton County Courthouse and the Post Office and down the street from Bentonville City Hall. The three-story building's red brick facade is decorated with cut stone and capped with a prominent cornice. It is supported on a wood frame structure. At the time of its construction, the Terry Block was the first building of its height to be built in Bentonville and today remains the downtown's tallest commercial structure. Loosely reminiscent of the Italianate influence in the Renaissance-like order of its facades, the Terry Block presents a substantial example of Victorian commercial architecture and successfully depicts the gilded age in northwest Arkansas. As such, the design of the building can be linked to the general development of commercial architecture in the midwest.

The building takes fine advantage of its prominent site. Although the principal entrance to the building is now located on its southeast corner, the east elevation of the Terry Block emerges as its principal facade by virtue of its frontage on the town square and its original concentration of commercial facilities. Historically the first floor of this elevation was given to commercial use, and this is reflected in the delineation of the facade. Brick pilasters, whose stone trim gives them a buttress-like appearance, divide the facade into two bays. Carved stone capitals in a foliated design distinguish the pilasters at the first floor level. Originally each bay featured plate glass storefront windows set above paneled wood baseboards and framed by simple columns. These display windows flanked double-doors that provided access to the commercial establishments. The columns carried a plain entablature consisting of unembellished frieze and cornice that spanned the two bays, visually strengthening the relationship between the pilasters. "Benton County Bank", the name of an original occupant of the building, was inscribed in a stone tablet that surmounted the cornice, further setting off the first floor commercial establishments from the office space above. Both the windows and doors of the first floor east elevation were fitted with transoms embellished with cathedral lights. Awnings, originally hung from the height of the entablature, shaded the broad showcase windows of the storefronts.

Alterations dating circa 1950 have changed the appearance of the east elevation of the Terry Block's first floor to a relatively minor degree. The original storefronts have been replaced with aluminum-framed doors and plate-glass windows. The cathedral light transoms and slender columns are no longer extant. Part of the northern bay's cornice moulding has been removed.

Above the commercial space of the first floor the function of the upper stories of the building, office spaces, is apparent from the elevation. The second and third floors of the east facade present a regular rhythm in a well-lighted perimeter wall. The slightly wider north bay contains three windows in each floor's facade, the south bay, two windows. These rectangular one-over-one light windows are gently recessed under brick segmental arches with articulated stone keystones. Small tympanae with delicate decorative carving terminate the window frames. The rather vertical nature of this elevation is offset by the horizontal interest developed by the continuous

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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received FEB 24 1982

date entered MAY 13 1982

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

narrow stone bank that articulates the window sills and by the stone panels that connect the spring points of the segmental window arches. The width of the panels is reiterated in stone bands that appear on the pilasters on line with the spring points of the arches in the second and third floor elevations and again on line with the window sash on the second floor.

The well ordered east elevation terminates in a highly decorative cornice which rises above the building to form a parapet wall. A course of corbeled bricks, giving the effect of a band of dentiling, appears immediately below the stone cornice and successfully eases the transition from the solid brick facade to the lighter, ever-so decorative cornice. The cornice, perhaps the most exciting feature of the building, has a paneled frieze and dentils, and the parapet above it is embellished with decorative banding. Stone panels in various decorative motifs and corresponding to the horizontal lines of the cornice and parapet cap the brick pilasters and continues to emphasize the division of the facade into bays. The north bay of the parapet wall is broken by a cornice-like element bearing the building's name "Terry Block" in relief on a frieze capped with another bank of dentiling and flanked by small stone pilasters that relate closely to the design of the panels that terminate the great pilasters that enrich the building's facades. Fan-shaped panels mediate between the parapet wall and the upward projecting piece of cornice.

The Terry Block building's exquisite cornice and parapet turn around the southeast corner of the city block that the building occupies with a sweeping curve which, in elevation, is flanked by yet another set of pilasters. The upper two floors of the building reflect this curve in plan and the curving brick wall is penetrated by one one-over-one light rectangular window in each floor, simply articulated with a stone lintel. In plan, the first floor of this part of the building turns the corner with a 45 degree angle that, though originally a window of the Benton County Bank with cathedral light transom, now serves as the building's entrance, definitively articulating the streetcorner. Sections of the brick pilasters have been covered with black glass panels and glass bricks frame the existing entry door. The cornice that sets off the first floor remains in place and is still surmounted by a small balcony with simple stone balustrade. Modillions placed beneath the corners of the balcony have a bracketing effect.

The south elevation of the Terry Block is quite similar to the east elevation in design and detail. Although it too gives the impression of being two-bay affair with that distinction made by brick pilasters, the south elevation is somewhat longer than the east with its east bay containing seven windows, its west bay, three windows. Though the keystones of the segmental arches that frame the windows are articulated in stone, as are the voussoirs that mark the extremities of the arches, there is no banking between the windows. The window sills, however, are articulated with a narrow band of stone. On the first floor, the east bay also features a range of windows but the west bay originally featured a secondary entrance and storefront with cathedral light transoms and framed, like the first floor of the east elevation, with a simple cornice.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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DEC 19 1980

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

however, are articulated with a narrow band of stone. On the first floor, the east bay also features a range of windows but the west bay originally featured a secondary entrance and storefront with cathedral light transoms and framed, like the first floor of the east elevation, with a simple cornice. Although the capping cornice continues along the full length of the south elevation, it does not have the lofty and decorative parapet wall that distinguished the east elevation.

The north and west walls of the Terry Block building form party walls with adjacent structures and their undistinguished designs are unobtrusive to the street.

Like many buildings of its kind, the interior of the Terry Block building was quite austere. The office spaces are devoid of significant architectural details.

Currently, the Terry Block is undergoing restoration to return the exterior of the building to its original condition with work concentrated on the altered first floor elevations and to bring the building's interior spaces up to contemporary code standards. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has participated in and approved the proposed scope and character of restoration work.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation | | | | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) | | | | |

Specific dates 1888

Builder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Terry Block building is not only an outstanding example of northwest Arkansas' late-nineteenth-century commercial architecture, but it is also closely associated with the accomplishments of Colonel William A. Terry, a prominent businessman and civic-minded citizen deeply involved in the development of Bentonville during a formative period of economic growth. Built in 1888, the Terry Block is one of Bentonville's finest representatives of the Victorian Era. The only other nineteenth-century commercial building of comparative size, scale, and architectural character in Bentonville, the People's Bank of 1887, has been severely altered. Moreover, the Terry Block's construction was a product of the economic success of Bentonville and Benton County enjoyed during the last years of the nineteenth century and the first decade of the twentieth century. At the time of its construction, the Terry Block building housed Colonel Terry's thriving retail business and provided a base of operation as he expanded into the field of wholesale drygoods. At that time the Benton County Bank, then the largest bank in the county with Terry serving as its president, also maintained space in the building. Both the general prosperity of the area and the success of Colonel Terry's retail drygoods business can be attributed to the impact of the construction of the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad in 1881. The development of the railroad brought Benton County accessibility to new markets in the North and South alike for its agricultural products, particularly the crops of the recently developed fruit industry. The Terry Block building captures a critical moment in Bentonville's development and represents the continuing growth of the still important agricultural interests in Benton County.

9. Major Bibliographical References

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northwest Arkansas, Chicago, 1889.

Black, J. Dickson, History of Benton County, 1836-1936, Little Rock, 1975
 "Successful Bentonville Merchant Built Terry Block" The Benton County Democrat,
 December 3, 1975

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Bentonville

Quadrangle scale 1: 24,000

UMT References

| | | | |
|------|---------|-------------|---------------|
| A | 1 5 | 3 9 1 5 6 0 | 4 0 2 5 7 3 0 |
| Zone | Easting | | Northing |
| C | | | |
| E | | | |
| G | | | |

| | | | |
|------|---------|--|----------|
| B | | | |
| Zone | Easting | | Northing |
| D | | | |
| F | | | |
| H | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot of 86 of the original town of Bentonville, Arkansas

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

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

11. Form Prepared By

| | | | |
|-----------------|---|-----------|-----------------|
| name/title | Ethel Goodstein, Architectural Historian & Don Brown, Historian | | |
| organization | Arkansas Historic Preservation Program | date | September, 1980 |
| street & number | 500 Continental Building | telephone | (501) 371-2763 |
| city or town | Little Rock | state | AR |

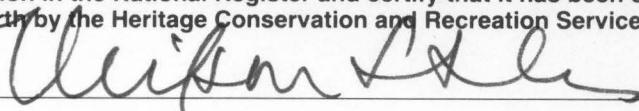
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

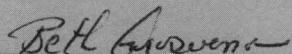
State Historic Preservation Officer signature



| | | | |
|-------|------|------|---------|
| title | SHPO | date | 2-16-82 |
|-------|------|------|---------|

For HCRS use only

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



date 5/3/82

keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Property: Terry Block Building
 State, County: AR Benton
 Federal Agency: _____

resubmission
 nomination by person or local government
 owner objection
 appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Resource is ok, and merits entry for criteria A + C once the technical corrections have been made. Good Statement of significance.

Nice job - technical omissions, however.

BG

Recom./Criteria A + C
 Reviewer Chambers
 Discipline Arch. Hs.
 Date Mar. 30, 1982
 see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: technical corrections cited below
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Category | Ownership | Status |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accessible | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present Use |

Please fill in - if not applicable
 mark NA

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check one | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check one | <input type="checkbox"/> original site |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | | <input type="checkbox"/> altered | | <input type="checkbox"/> moved |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> date |

Please fill in

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 — not literally, but first sentence is a nice concise, informative summary.

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

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UMT 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 Delores Byers

Date 4/1/82

Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Substantive Review

EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

82004613

Property: Terry Block Building
 State, County: AR, Benton
 Federal Agency: _____

resubmission
 nomination by person or local government
 owner objection
 appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Possibly B, too, but significance is written as criterion A.

Recom./Criteria accept - A, C

Reviewer Gisvold

Discipline hist.

Date 5/13/82

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 |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| good | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> original site |
| fair | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved <input type="checkbox"/> date _____ |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

summary paragraph - nice
 completeness
 clarity
 alterations/integrity
 dates
 boundary selection

C. Significance

Standards **Areas of Significance—Check and Justify below**

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

Acresage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Unit References

Varied 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

1960s
1970s
1980s
1990s
2000s
2010s
2020s

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Signed _____

Date _____

Phone: 202 272-3506

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



The Terry Block Building
101-103 North Main
Bentonville, Benton County, Arkansas

Robert Dunn, 1980
Negative Location: AHPP *NEG 19 100*

Street Facades from southeast
1 of 4



The Terry Block Building
101-103 North Main
Bentonville, Benton County, Arkansas

Robert Dunn, 1980
Negative Location: AHPP

DEC 19 1980

East Facade from east
2 of 4



The Terry Block Building
101-103 Norht Main
Bentonville, Benton County, Arkansas

Robert Dunn, 1980
Negative Location: AHPP

South Facade from southeast
3 of 4

19 1980



The Terry Block Building
101-103 North Main
Bentonville, Benton County, Arkansas

Robert Dunn, 1980
Negative Location: AHPP

DEC 19 1980

South Facade Entrance from southweat
4 of 4



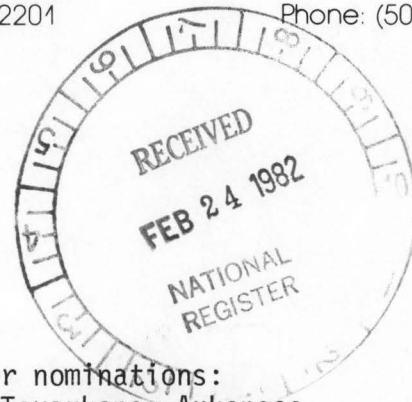
ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

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

Phone: (501) 371-2763

February 17, 1982

Ms. Carol D. Shull
Acting Keeper of the National Register
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
440 G Street N.W.
Washington D.D. 20240



Re: National Register nominations:
Garrison House, Texarkana, Arkansas
Bank of Kingston, Kingston, Arkansas
Terry Block Building, Bentonville, Arkansas

Carol
Dear Ms. Shull:

We are enclosing for your review three nominations for the National Register of Historic Places. The properties are: Augustus Garrison House, Texarkana, Arkansas; Bank of Kingston, Kingston, Arkansas; Terry Block Building, Bentonville, Arkansas. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

I would like to bring to your attention that the Terry Block Building in Bentonville, Arkansas was granted a preliminary certification of significance August 4, 1980 and a preliminary certification of rehabilitation on August 1, 1980.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Wilson Stiles
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure

WS/js