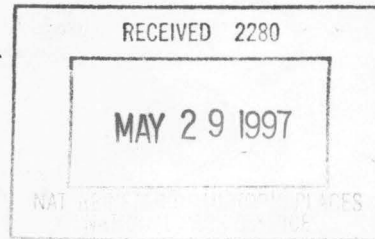


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

Historic Name: Woodman of Union Building

Other Name/Site Number: National Baptist Hotel / GA 0469

=====

2. Location

=====

Street & Number: 501 Malvern Avenue

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Hot Springs

Vicinity: N/A

State: AR County: Garland Code: AR 051 Zip Code: 71901

=====

3. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Woodman of Union Building
Name of Property

Garland Co., Arkansas
County and State

=====

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Cathryn A. Slater
Signature of certifying official

5-16-97
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====

5. National Park Service Certification

=====

I, 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

☐ removed from the National Register

☐ other (explain): _____

Babara J. Little
Signature of Keeper

6/27/97
Date of Action

Woodman of Union Building
Name of Property

Garland Co., Arkansas
County and State

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic:	<u>Domestic</u>	Sub:	<u>Hotel</u>
	<u>Recreation and Culture</u>		<u>Auditorium</u>
	<u>Social</u>		<u>Meeting Hall</u>
	<u>Commerce</u>		<u>Financial Institution</u>

Current :	<u>Vacant/Not In Use</u>	Sub:	<u></u>
	<u></u>		<u></u>
	<u></u>		<u></u>

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification:

Classical Revival

Materials: foundation Terra Cotta, Brick roof Asphalt
walls Brick other Terra Cotta, Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

Summary

Located at 501 Malvern Avenue in downtown Hot Springs, the Woodman of Union Building is a four-story, irregular-plan, commercial building constructed in 1923. The majority of the building is of masonry construction; however, the southeastern portion of the building has a wood-frame superstructure. The red brick walls are trimmed with cream-colored, Classical Revival-style, terra cotta decorations including porch columns, brackets, belt courses and cornices. Significant interior features include an original bank vault, marble wainscoting and trim, bathhouse stalls and fixtures, and a large 2,500 seat auditorium on the fourth floor. Although the Woodman of Union Building is in an advanced state of deterioration and has been condemned by the city, it retains the necessary historic integrity required for listing.

Elaboration

Constructed in 1923, the Woodman of Union Building is a four-story, irregular-plan, commercial building. The structure is largely of masonry construction - brick, structural ceramic block, and concrete - along with some steel reinforcement. The southeastern section, however, contains a

wood-frame superstructure. The foundation is faced with cream-colored terra cotta wainscoting on most of the three principal facades. The exterior walls are faced with red tapestry brick on the northwest, southwest, and southeast elevations and common brick on the rear elevation. The roof is flat and largely behind a parapet although the fly tower for the auditorium substantially projects above the roofline. There is one exterior brick chimney along the rear elevation.

The front, or southwestern, elevation fronts Malvern Avenue and both the Gulpha and Garden Street corners are beveled. In between, this elevation is divided into roughly nine vertical window divisions in addition to the principal feature of the facade, the wide entrance and porch bay that is positioned four window bays south of the Gulpha Street corner. The first story entrance contains double-leaf, three-quarter glazed, wood doors that are flanked by large single-pane sidelights and capped by a simple wood pediment set within a rectangular wood panel and three transom lights. This assemblage is surrounded by a large elliptical arch with a decorative keystone and flanking fluted pilasters. A pair of large scroll brackets, one above each pilaster, supports a projecting entablature that forms the base of the overhanging porch above. The frieze above the cornice proclaims "BATH HOUSE & SANITARIUM" in raised letters. Excepting the wood framework around the doors/sidelights/transoms, all of the exterior decorative work on the first-story entrance and the porches above are made of cream-colored terra cotta.

The first story section to the north of the entrance bay is arranged into three commercial-type, storefront windows with large, bisected plate-glass and three-pane transoms, most of which are boarded over. To the south of the entrance bay, there are five pairs of one-over-one, double-hung, wood windows and two single windows (spaced closely together and counted above as a single bay) near the Garden Street corner.

The second story of this elevation is delineated by a terra cotta belt course. Window arrangements for the second and third stories are identical except that three pairs of windows are utilized above the storefront windows. The second and third story porches above the entrance bay project slightly from the surrounding wall and are also recessed. These porches are supported by three square terra cotta columns with ornate Corinthian capitals clustered at each corner. Both porches are accessed through double-leaf doors with large sidelights and transoms. The fourth floor of the front elevation is delineated by a relatively plain terra cotta belt course above the third-story windows and a more elaborate projecting entablature with dentils and modillions along the sill level of the fourth-story windows.

Fenestration on this story is similar to the second and third stories but with a pair of windows as opposed to two single windows near the Garden Street corner. Window treatment, however, is much more elaborate with large terra cotta hood molds that connect with the adjacent window, the continuous nature of which provides a castellated effect. Similar terra cotta panels link the bottom halves of the windows, and two square panels are placed between the right angle turns of the connecting courses. As expected, the

fourth-story porch is also more decorative than those on the second and third stories and features two elliptical arches with an additional two columns in the center. A simple terra cotta course separates the top of this story from the brick parapet, and a slight terra cotta pediment caps the porch bay division.

The beveled corners at the Gulpha and Garden Street corners are similarly arranged with terra cotta-clad porches on the first three stories. The first story porches are supported by two round columns with Corinthian capitals and are accessed by double-leaf doors with transoms flanked by one-over-one, double-hung, wood windows. The second and third story porches are supported by two square columns. The fourth story of the beveled corners have a pair of windows that are adorned in the fashion of their previously mentioned front elevation counterparts.

The Gulpha Street, or northwestern, elevation contains several storefront windows and single-leaf entrances with transoms. These windows and doors are currently boarded over and only the multiple-pane transoms are visible. Fenestration, belt courses, and cornice treatment for the upper stories follows the same pattern established on the front elevation. The second and third stories are each fenestrated by four paired and two single one-over-one windows (the second story seems to have been altered by the addition of two small casement windows between pairs). With a slight variation in placement, the fourth story contains the same number of windows and continues the front elevation decorative treatment.

The rear, or northeastern, elevation is finished in common brick and contains a number of windows. The most distinguishing features, however, are the large brick chimney and the two access drives. One is a recessed three-story hall adjacent to the chimney and the other is a full-height access between the center section containing the fly tower and the Garden Street wing.

The Garden Street, or southeastern, elevation does not contain any storefronts, but rather reflects the interior bathhouse usage. Terra cotta wainscoting is utilized on the first story, and fenestration is accomplished by two single one-over-one windows on the Malvern Avenue end and eight small windows that appear to have originally been of one-over-one configuration but are now largely boarded. There are also five small metal vents, and one of the windows has been partially filled with brick and a larger louvered vent installed. The second story is identical with the exception of some variation in vent placement. The third story is fenestrated by ten conventional-sized one-over-one windows, and the fourth story has the decorated paired and single one-over-one windows as seen in the front elevation. A smaller casement window appears to have replaced the original window near the rear corner.

The interior still reflects the mixed usage of the building and most of the original details are intact, though deteriorated. Significant interior features include an original bank vault, marble wainscoting and trim, bathhouse stalls and fixtures, and a large 2,500 seat auditorium on the fourth floor.

Woodman of Union Building
Name of Property

Garland Co., Arkansas
County and State

The Woodman of Union Building is located at 501 Malvern Avenue in downtown Hot Springs in the proximity of the Park Hilton Hotel and the Hot Springs Convention Auditorium. Although the building is in an advanced state of deterioration and has been condemned by the city, it retains the necessary historic integrity required for listing.

=====
8. Statement of Significance
=====

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Statewide.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A,C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: Ethnic Heritage - Black
Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1923 - 1947

Significant Dates: 1923

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Webb, J. L.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Summary

The Woodman of Union Building is being nominated under Criterion A with statewide significance for its association with the Supreme Lodge of the Woodman of Union and its various activities during the period from 1923 to 1947. Under Criterion C, the building is equally significant as a hotel/bathhouse/commercial building constructed by a locally prominent builder in an unusual Classical Revival-style inspired design.

Historical Background

The reputation of Hot Springs as a resort town was well established even before the Civil War due to the widespread belief that the hot springs contained medicinal qualities. The first crude bathhouses were constructed in 1830 and proved so popular that two years later the United States set aside four sections of land around the springs as a reservation to prevent commercial exploitation. Because of the natural resource, Hot Springs experienced relatively steady growth, and during the nineteenth century slowly transformed from a small, primitive village into a modern pleasure resort. This growth was greatly facilitated in 1875 with the completion of a narrow-gauge railroad from Malvern known as the "Diamond Jo" after its financier, Joseph "Diamond Jo" Reynolds, a prominent Chicago businessman of that era.

Little is known about the earliest African-American settlement in the area, though it is certain that there was at least a small community of some size in 1868, as it was in that year that the Rev. Henderson Patillo and Rev. B. W. Whitlow came to Hot Springs from Malvern via the old highway in a wagon to preach to a small group of worshippers that met outdoors.

In 1919, the Supreme Lodge of the Woodman of Union, a black social club/union/fraternity, purchased the site of the nominated property. In 1923, the current structure was erected along the length of Malvern Avenue, between Gulpha and Garden Streets. On January 17, 1924, prominent African-American men from every region of Arkansas participated in the dedication of the new Woodman of Union Building. Created by the genius of J.L. Webb, Supreme Custodian of the Woodman of Union, the unique building housed the various activities of the fraternity. A 100-bed hospital and nurse training school, a 75-room bath hotel, the Woodman of Union Bank, a 2,500 seat auditorium, which featured such attractions as Count Basie and Duke Ellington, an electrically operated printing plant, and executive offices were all located within the building.

Although not located on Bathhouse Row (NR 11/13/74, NHL 5/28/87) under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service, the Woodman of Union bathhouse was also subject to federal regulations regarding bathhouse standards.

In 1950, the building was purchased by the National Baptist Association, U.S.A and became known as the National Baptist Hotel and Bath House. The National Baptist Association expanded the bath house and upgraded the bath facilities according to regulations of the United States Department of Interior. The bath house was finished with an abundance of nickel-plated brass and marble. In 1971, the National Baptist Association purchased the land directly behind the hotel for use as a parking lot.

As segregation ended and integration of public facilities became prevalent, usage of the National Baptist Hotel waned, and in the late 1970s, it became a struggle to remain open. Finally, in 1981, the hotel closed and has remained closed to this date.

In 1984, when the city began its redevelopment project which included the Hot Springs Convention Center and Park Hilton slightly more than a block away, the property was sold to four partners from Dallas. A year later, as plans were being completed to convert the 155-room hotel to 80 suites, the Texas real estate market crumbled and two of the partners went into bankruptcy. In August 1991, the property was purchased by Hawk Management Group, Inc., a corporation based in Northern Nevada. The building is currently vacant and in deteriorated condition.

Historical and Architectural Significance

The Woodman of Union Building is being nominated under Criterion A with statewide significance for its association with the Supreme Lodge of the Woodman of Union and its various activities during the period from 1923 to 1947. Under Criterion C, the building is equally significant as a hotel/bathhouse/commercial building constructed by a locally prominent builder in an unusual Classical Revival-style inspired design.

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

Brown, Dee. *The American Spa, Hot Springs, Arkansas*. Little Rock: Rose Publishing Co., 1982.

Information submitted for NR determination of eligibility by Ken Santor, President Hawk Management, May, 1996.

Page, John C. and Laura Soulliere Harrison. *Out of the Vapors: A Social and Architectural History of Bathhouse Row*. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1987.

Workers of the Writer's Program. *The WPA Guide to 1930's Arkansas*, with new introduction by Elliot West. Lawrence, Kansas: The University Press, 1987 (original copyright, 1941).

Woodman of Union Building
Name of Property

Garland Co., Arkansas
County and State

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 # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other state agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other -- Specify Repository: _____

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property: Approximately one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>495470</u>	<u>3818180</u>	B	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
C	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	D	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Verbal Boundary Description:

Lots 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, Block 65 of the Hot Springs Reservation, as surveyed, mapped and platted by the United States Hot Springs Commissioners.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary includes the historic hotel and all of the property historically associated with this resource.

Woodman of Union Building
Name of Property

Garland Co., Arkansas
County and State

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

Name/Title: Patrick Zollner, National Register/Survey Coordinator

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: May 16, 1997

Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Woodman of Union Building
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Garland County

DATE RECEIVED: 05/29/97 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 06/09/97
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 06/24/97 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 07/13/97
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 97000616

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT ☐ DATE

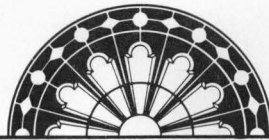
ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA A, C

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

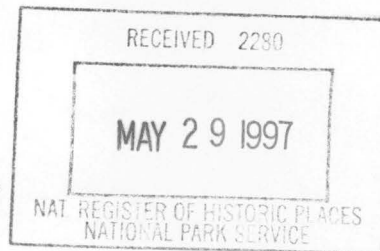
DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



ARKANSAS
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
PROGRAM

May 16, 1997

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
United State Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
800 North Capitol Street, Suite 250
Washington, D.C. 20002



RE: Woodman of Union Building
Hot Springs, Garland County

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination of 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 Slater
State Historic Preservation Officer

CBS:rm

Enclosures





Woodman of Union Bldg.

Garland Co., Arkansas

Photo by P. Zollner

February 1997

Negative on file at AHPP

View from the south;

int. of Malvern Ave & Garden St.



Woodman of Union Bldg.

Garland Co., Arkansas

Photo by P. Zollner

Feb. 1917

Negative on file at AHPP

View from the west



Woodman of Union Bldg.
Garland Co., Arkansas

Photo by P. Zolher

Feb. 1997

Negative on file at AHPP

View from the East



Woodman of Union Bldg.

Garland Co., Arkansas

Photo by P. Zollner

Feb. 1997

Negative on file at AHPP

View from the northeast



Woodman of Union Bldg.
Garland Co., Arkansas

Photo by P. Zolher

February 1997

Negative on file at AHPP

View from the west, int. of
Gulph St. & Malvern Ave.



Woodman of Union Bldg.
Garland Co., Arkansas
Photo by P. Zollner

Feb. 1997

Negative on file at AHPP
View from the northwest



Woodman of Union Bldg.

Garland Co., Arkansas

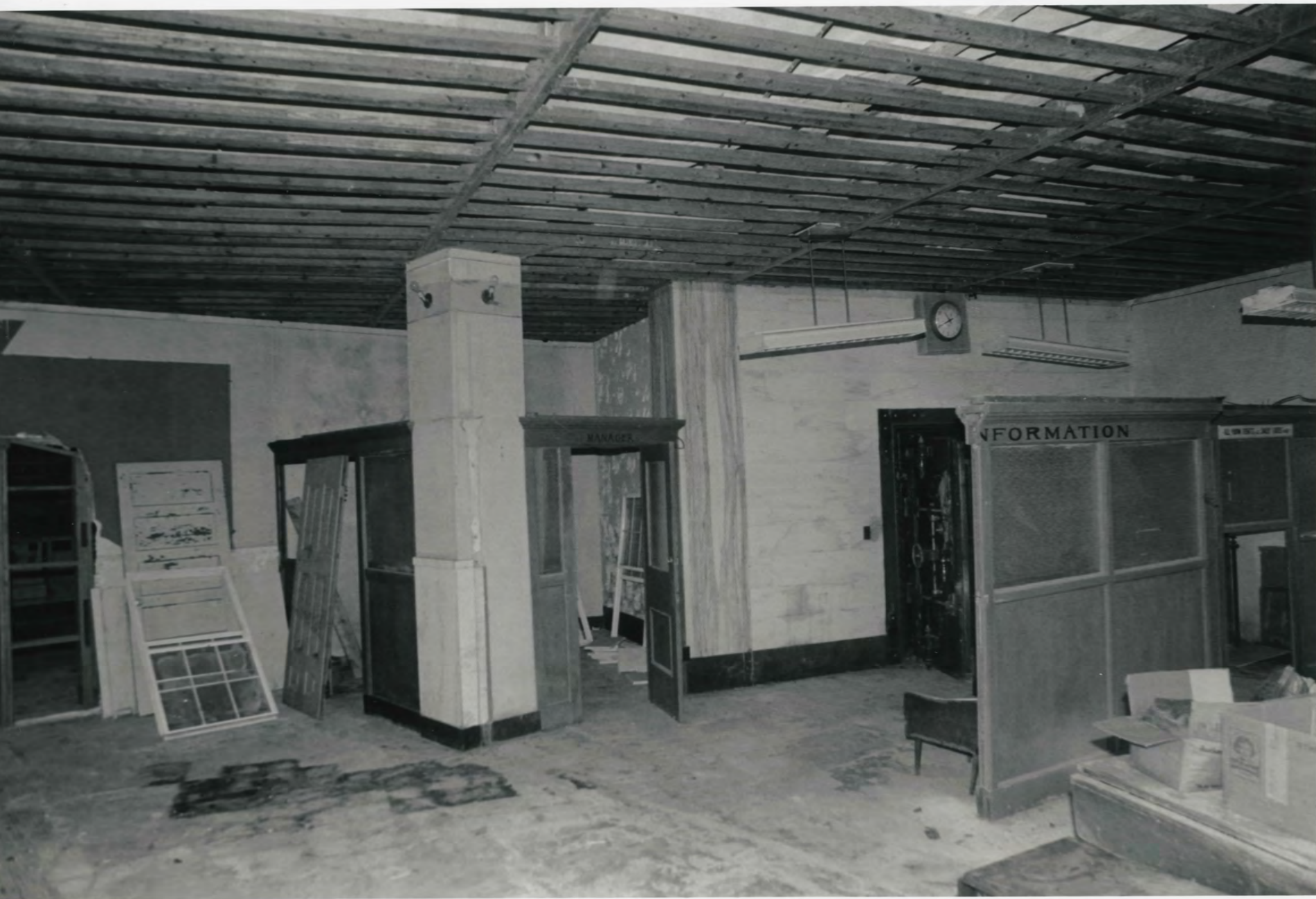
Photo by P. Zollner

Feb. 1997

Negative on file at AHPP

View from northwest of

hotel lobby, int. of Garden St.
at Malvern Ave.



Woodman of Union Bldg.

Garland Co., Arkansas

Photo by P. Zollner

Feb. 1997

Negative on file at AHPP

View of bank lobby

from the west, int. of

Gulpha St. & Malvern Ave.



Woodman of Union Bldg.

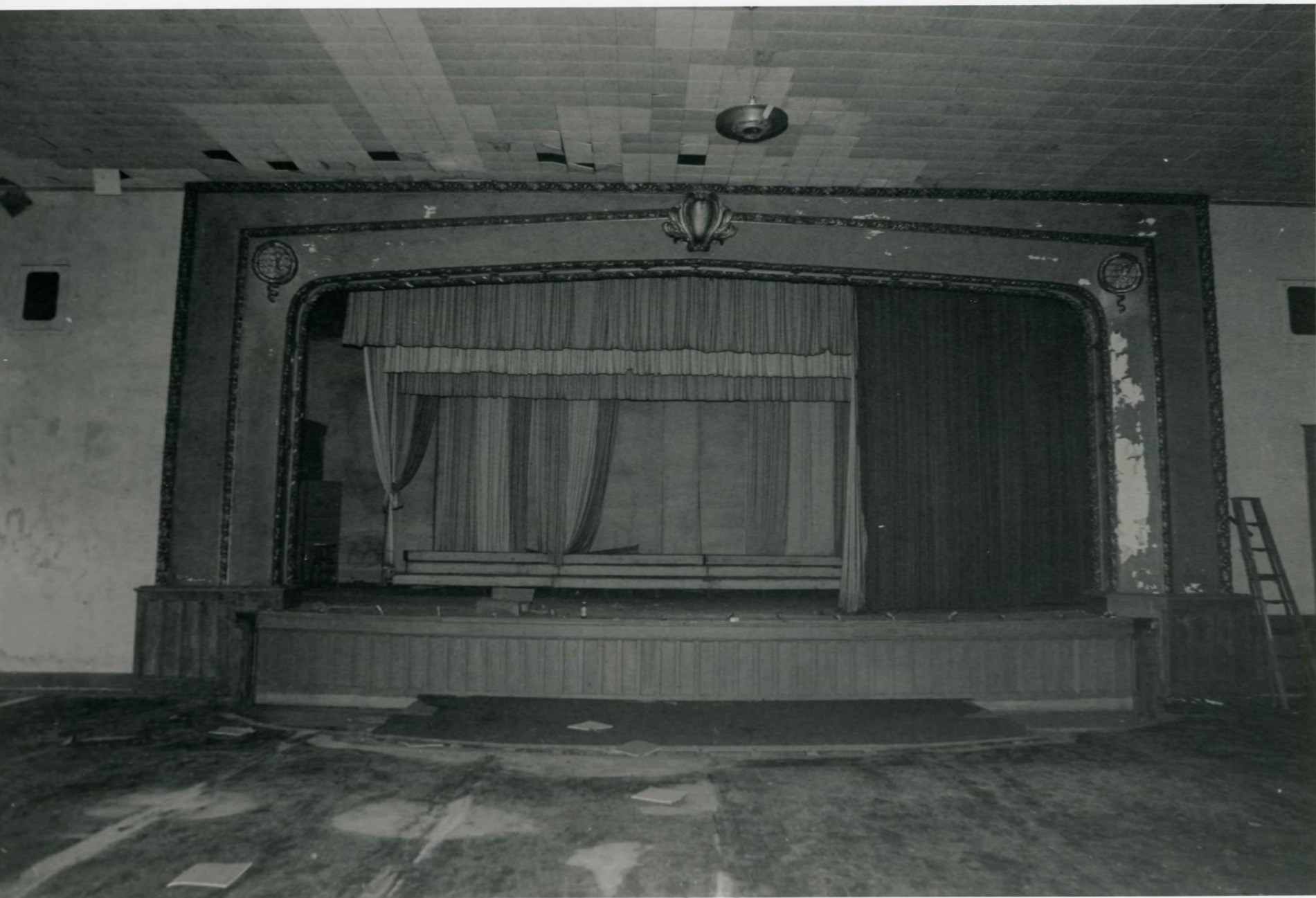
Garland Co., Arkansas

Photo by P. Zollner

February 1997

Negative on file at ANPP

View of shower stall &
bathtub; 2nd story from
the north



Woodman of Union Bldg.

Garland Co., Arkansas

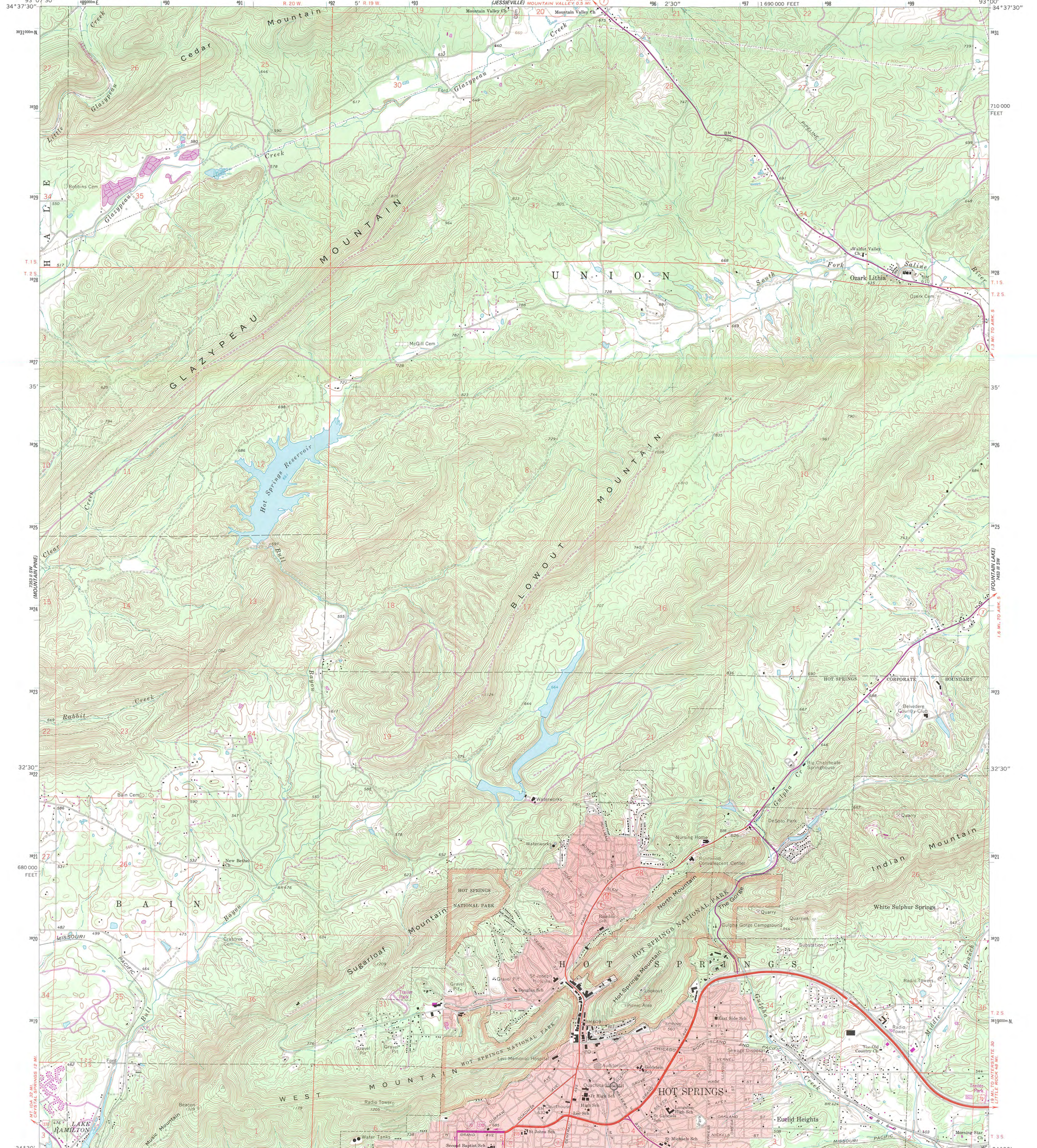
Photo by P. Zollner

Feb. 1997

Negative on file at AHPP

View of 4th-story auditorium

from the northwest



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1965. Field checked 1966
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1976. This information not field checked

UTM GRID AND 1976 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,
move the projection lines 8 meters south and
16 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

SCALE 1:24 000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

Woodman of the Union
Garland County
Arkansas
151 495 470 / 3818180

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
U.S. Route ——— State Route ———

QUADRANGLE LOCATION
HOT SPRINGS NORTH, ARK.
34093-E1-TF-024
1966
PHOTOREVISED 1976
DMA 7553 II SE—SERIES Y884

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

97000616

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Woodmen of Union Building

other names/site number National Baptist Hotel; Woodman of Union Building; GA0469

2. Location

street & number 501 Malvern Avenue

☐ not for publication

city or town Hot Spring

☐ vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Garland code 051 zip code 71901

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐
request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic
Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐
does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☐ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Casimir Maceo
Signature of certifying official/Title

9/27/00
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program/Department of Arkansas Heritage

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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.

☐ removed from the National
Register.

☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

Originally listed as the Woodman of Union Building, further research and documentation has revealed that the historic name of this building is the Woodmen of Union Building. An original postcard dating to circa 1927 reveals that the building was called the Woodmen of Union Building. This is further validated by several other historic documents such as a souvenir program. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program is asking that the nomination be amended to reflect the correct name "The Woodmen of Union Building."

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Kara Mills		
organization	Arkansas Historic Preservation Program	date	September 14, 2000
street & number	1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street	telephone	(501) 324-9787
city or town	Little Rock	state	AR zip code 72201



c 1926-1931

ORIGINAL POST CARD BELONGS TO STEVEN HANLEY, AUTHOR AND WRITER
FOR THE ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT NEWSPAPER.



JOHN L. WEBB
Supreme Custodian of Woodmen of Union

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY NAME: Woodmen of Union Building

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Garland

DATE RECEIVED: 10/20/00 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/04/00
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 97000616

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 11.14.00 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Additional Documentation Accepted

RECOM./CRITERIA

REVIEWER Edson Beall DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



The Department of Arkansas Heritage

**WE LOVE TO TELL
THE STORY.**

Mike Huckabee, Governor
Cathie Matthews, Director

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural Heritage
Commission

Arkansas Territorial Restoration

Delta Cultural Center

Old State House Museum



Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

1500 Tower Building

323 Center Street

Little Rock, AR 72201

(501)324-9880

fax: (501)324-9184

tdd: (501)324-9811

e-mail:

info@arkansaspreservation.org

website:

www.arkansaspreservation.org

An Equal Opportunity Employer



97000616

Handwritten initials

September 28, 2000

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
800 North Capitol Street, Suite 250
Washington, D.C. 20002

RE: Woodmen of Union Building, Hot Springs, Garland County

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review an amendment to the nomination of 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.

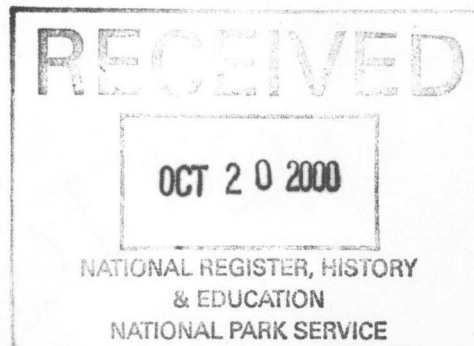
Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews

Cathie Matthews,
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:km

Enclosures



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

The Woodmen of Union Building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on June 27, 1997, and listed the architect of the building as J. L. Webb. However, since that time, additional research has found that the building was designed by W. T. Bailey, an architect who practiced in Memphis, Tennessee, and later Chicago, Illinois.

Bailey was born in Kewanee, Illinois, on January 11, 1882, to Emanuel and Lucy Reynolds Bailey. After graduating from Kewanee High School, he started studying in the architectural program at the University of Illinois in Champaign in 1900, and also became a member of the student "Architect's Club." Soon after graduating from college in June 1904 with a bachelor of arts degree in architecture, he married Josephine L. McCurdy on October 15, 1904. They later had two daughters, Edyth Hazel born in 1905 and Alberta Josephine born in 1913.¹

Professionally, Bailey returned to Kewanee, where he began his career working in the office of architect Henry Eckland as a draftsman. However, by February 1905, Bailey returned to Champaign, Illinois, to work in the office of the firm of Spencer & Temple. Bailey's career, however, would really take off in September 1905 when he was hired by the Tuskegee Institute as the head of the Mechanical Industries Department. In addition, he supervised the campus's architectural and planning aspects.²

Bailey remained at Tuskegee until 1916 when he opened his own office in Memphis, Tennessee. Although Bailey specialized in churches, he obtained business contacts through the lodges of the Knights of Pythias, an African-American fraternal organization, which resulted in several commissions. Most notably, Bailey designed the National Pythian Temple in Chicago, an eight-story building that housed the lodge's national offices and numerous meeting halls as well as rental offices and stores. The building, which was estimated to cost over \$1 million, was touted as "the largest building, financed, designed and built by African Americans."³

As Bailey was involved in the design of the National Pythian Temple (and the Woodmen of Union Building), it was a busy time in his career. A letter that he wrote to Carl Stevens, editor of the *Alumni News* at the University of Illinois on January 4, 1924, illustrates the commissions that he was involved in:

I am sending you the following statement at your request with reference to some of my recent buildings that I have designed.

¹ Wilson, Dreck Spurlock (ed.). *African American Architects: A Biographical Dictionary, 1865-1945*. New York: Routledge, 2004, p. 15.

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*, pp. 15-16.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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- (1) The Mosaic State temple Bld'g, Little Rock, Ark., completed about 18 months ago at a cost of \$100,000.00
- (2) Pythian Theatre Bld'g, Little Rock, Ark., completed one year ago at a cost of \$80,000.00.
- (3) Pythian Bath House and Sanitarium, four stories high, Hot Springs, Ark., completed six months ago at a cost of \$380,000.00.
- (4) Just completed a four story Bank Bld'g. for the Fraternal Savings Bank & Trust Co., Memphis, Tenn/. At a cost of \$50,000.00.
- (5) Woodmen of Union Bath House, four stories high, Hot Springs, Ark., being erected and about half completed, contract price of which is \$350,000.00.
- (6) Tennessee State Pythian Bld'g six stories high, Nashville, Tenn., plans for same are completed and work is to start on the same in the spring, aproximate [sic] cost \$325,000.00.
- (7) At present I am making plans for the Nation Temple bld'g for the K. of P. twelve stories high, Chicago, Ill., aproximate [sic.] cost \$850,000.⁴

Because of the planning involved in the National Pythian Temple, Bailey moved his practice to Chicago in 1924, becoming the first licensed black architect in Chicago. Even though the African-American business community in Chicago was noted for sponsoring new buildings during the 1920s, Bailey received few substantial commissions. Rather, the bulk of his practice was devoted to smaller commercial buildings, churches, and remodeling projects. Bailey's final large project was the First Church of Deliverance, built in 1939, a church designed in the Art Moderne style that was drastically different from traditional ecclesiastical architecture of the period.⁵

Walter Thomas Bailey died on February 21, 1941, at the age of 59, the result of pneumonia caused by complications from heart disease. Bailey was practicing actively at the time of his death, working on an interior remodeling of the Olivet Baptist Church, one of the most prominent African-American churches in Chicago, and a design for the Ida B. Wells Homes, a public housing project for African-Americans on Chicago's west side.⁶

⁴ Bailey, W. T. Letter to Carl Stevens. 4 January 1924.

⁵ Wilson, p. 16.

⁶ Wilson, p. 16-17.

Woodmen of Union Building

Name of Property

Garland County, Arkansas

County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bailey, W. T. Letter to Carl Stevens. 4 January 1924.

Wilson, Dreck Spurlock (ed.). *African American Architects: A Biographical Dictionary, 1865-1945*. New York: Routledge, 2004.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY Woodmen of Union Building
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Garland

DATE RECEIVED: 8/06/07 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/19/07
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 97000616

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT _____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

~~Additional Documentation Accepted~~

RECOM./CRITERIA

REVIEWER

DISCIPLINE

TELEPHONE

DATE

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



**The Department of
Arkansas
Heritage**

Mike Beebe
Governor

Cathie Matthews
Director

Arkansas Arts Council

*

Arkansas Natural Heritage
Commission

*

Delta Cultural Center

*

Historic Arkansas Museum

*

Mosaic Templars
Cultural Center

*

Old State House Museum



**Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program**

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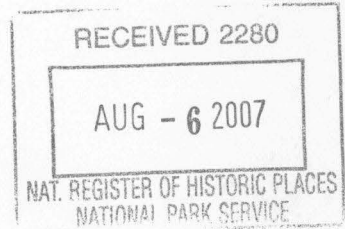
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97000616

August 1, 2007

Dr. Janet Matthews
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
8th Floor
1201 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005



RE: Woodmen of Union Building – Hot Springs, Garland
County, Arkansas

Dear Dr. Matthews:

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

If you need further information, please call Ralph S. Wilcox of my staff at (501) 324-9787. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:rsw

Enclosure