

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

3985

# 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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.



### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: National Old Line Insurance Company Building

Other names/site number: 501 Building / PU4523

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

### 2. Location

Street & number: 501 Woodlane Street

City or town: Little Rock State: AR County: Pulaski

Not For Publication:

Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

   national    statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

  A   B XC   D

		<u>4-8-19</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:		Date
<u>Arkansas Historic Preservation Program</u>		
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		

In my opinion, the property <u>  </u> meets <u>  </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<hr/>	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
<hr/>	
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

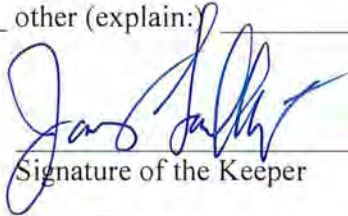
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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain: \_\_\_\_\_)

  
Signature of the Keeper

5-28-2019  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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           

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE/office building

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT/government office

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT/International Style

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

STONE/Limestone

METAL/Steel

Concrete

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The National Old Line Insurance Co. Building is a six-story office building located on the east side of Woodlane Drive, bounded on the north by West Capitol Avenue and on the south by West Sixth Street. It sits across from the Arkansas State Capitol Building in Little Rock. The concrete and steel-frame building houses various Arkansas State offices on all of its floors. The building is characterized by alternating rows of ribbon windows and Alabama Limestone panels that completely wrap the building and large concrete sunshades between the floors. The building has a quasi-symmetrical, "I"-shaped plan with the west façade being the dominant side.



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## ELABORATION

The National Old Line Insurance Co. Building, which was initially constructed between 1953 and 1954 and was designed by Little Rock architect Yandell Johnson, is a six-story office building, with an additional level below grade, located between Capitol and Sixth streets on Woodlane Street across from the Arkansas State Capitol Building. The original section of the building included the northern seven-story tower and the lower three floors of the center section. In 1964-65, an addition was made to the building that included the six-floor southern section with two levels below grade and four additional upper floors to the center section.

The National Old Line Insurance Co. Building rests on a continuous concrete foundation and has a welded steel frame. The building has a flat tar roof. The building is currently home to primarily State offices; however, there are a few private offices in the building as well. Historically, there was a three bedroom, three and half bath apartment on the northern end of the sixth floor, but that space was converted into executive offices in 2014.

The building is characterized by ribbons of windows and Alabama limestone panels on all four facades of the building with steel reinforced concrete sunshades above each ribbon of windows. The lower five levels are uniform in footprint, but the sixth floor of the building is recessed to create an outdoor terrace around the entire floor. Despite having been constructed in two phases, the building features a continuously uniform grid, created by the glazing and limestone panels, that wraps the entirety of the exterior envelope of the structure.

### West Façade

The primary façade is on the western side of the building along Woodlane Street and facing the Arkansas State Capitol Building. The façade features a nearly symmetrical design with protruding ends to the north and south. The recessed central area features a limestone plaza on the first floor level with the original main entrance to the building on the northern end. Historically the words “National Old Line” were spelled out below the second floor windows in the center of the building in projecting letters. However, these have since been removed.

The ribbon windows and concrete sunshades of the second through fifth floors of the central section of the west façade are identical. The windows are bounded on either end of slightly raised sections of limestone panels. The northern raised section conceals a unique “smokeless fire escape” beside a small exterior balcony. The fire escape, which was originally the southern end of the second through sixth floors, creates a tower element and features a vertical flagpole near its top.

The sixth floor of the central section is recessed from the floors below it. It has a set of double doors at each end of the ribbon windows, which accesses a comparatively shallow outdoor terrace under a deep eave.

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The north and south protruding sections of the west façade are roughly identical on the first through fifth floors of the façade in size, detailing and fenestration. However, the sixth floor areas are of very different detail and character. Because the sixth floor of the northern section was originally the entirety of the sixth floor and was designed as an apartment, the terrace on the east façade is much deeper than is on the southern end. There is also a much deeper eave on the northern section than the southern section, which created a covered sitting area that was once just outside of the living room of the apartment.

### **North Façade**

The north façade of the building features six lower levels with a recessed seventh level due the sloping nature of the site. The ground floor level, which is partially below grade, features the current primary entrance to the building. This entrance is accessed by a decorative concrete and tile walkway with a low retaining wall on one side with decorative plantings and flowerbed on the other side. The entrance is slightly recessed with the commemorative plaque for the initial construction of the building on the left wall and a metal decorative vent screens on the right. The entrance itself is an aluminum and glass storefront system with double doors in the center and side windows and transom surrounding them. To the left of the recessed area on the facade is the address of the building in black, raised letters. To the right of the entrance on the façade are two metal vents with horizontal louvers.

The ground level features the same system of ribbon windows and concrete sunshades as the floors above it. However, due to the site and entrance, the ribbon of the windows is only half the length as the floors above. The concrete sunshade on the ground floor extends beyond the windows to west to also cover the recessed entry area. Below the first floor windows, to the right of the entrance, is a metal Arkansas State University System sign. The first through fifth floors of the building feature the same ribbon windows seen on the west façade in an uninterrupted stream across the entire side. The sixth floor façade is recessed with a deep eave over a utility terrace and three short windows that sit high on the wall, just below the eave.

### **East Façade**

The east façade of the building is bounded by an alley that bisects the block. To the east of the alley is an adjacent building that also spans the width of the block. Like the west façade, the east façade is generally symmetrical and features a recessed central façade with twin protruding sections at either end. A small parking area was created in the adjacent area to the recessed portion of the façade.

The northern protruding section of the east façade features six identical levels of concrete sunshades atop continuous ribbon windows that wrap around the corners of the building. The recessed seventh level of the section features a broad terrace in front of four sets of floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors.

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The central section of the east façade features two ground-level entrances at either end of the recessed portion. The ground level also features the shortest stretch of ribbon windows on the center section, which is bookended by louvered vents and the entrances.

The second and third levels have identical lengths of ribbon windows, being three panels wider at each end than the ground level. These sections of glazing are also bookended by louvered vents, though offset from the ground floor, and by two small windows at staggered heights, which evidence interior service staircases at either end.

The fourth through sixth levels of the eastern façade are identical to one another, and are three panels wider than the previous two floors' glazing. The windows on these floors are not bounded by vents, as seen in the previous levels, but extend to the previously mentioned staggered windows of the service staircases.

The central section of the east facade is the only extended section of the building where the seventh level is not recessed. Instead, it is flush with the lower levels and features identical glazing to the previous three floors, which are again bounded by the staggered windows of the service staircases.

The southern protruding section of the east façade features only two doors on the ground level but no window openings. Above that sits five identical floors of continuous ribbon windows topped with concrete sunshades. The seventh level is again recessed with a deep terrace and four sets of full-height glass sliding doors shaded by deep eaves.

### **South Façade**

The south façade of the building features an entrance and elevated terrace on the first floor level that has a staircase that descends down to the grade. Like the north façade, the terrain slopes towards the east, adding an extra story on the eastern end of the façade. However, on the south façade, there is no glazing or architectural detailing given to the exposed ground level exterior.

The first floor entrance is an identical storefront system as the north entrance, which is also recessed. The entrance sits just west of the centerline of the façade but is lacking the ornamental vents and commemoration plaques that are present on the north entrance. Ribbons of windows flank either side of the entrance and a continuous concrete sunshade runs the width of the façade.

The second through the fifth floors are identical to the north façade, and feature continuous ribbons of glazing topped with a concrete sunshade.

The sixth floor is recessed to create a terrace around the level. There is considerably more glazing on the south end of the sixth floor than the north, with sliding glass doors leading from interior offices out onto the terrace. The sixth floor also has a deep eave along its entire length.

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**Interior**

The interior of the building is entirely composed of office spaces and meeting rooms. The current primary entrance to the building has been partially renovated over the years, but still contains many original features, such as illuminated signs, bathroom tile, north end elevators, and double vaults.

**Integrity**

Overall, the National Old Line Insurance Co. Building retains good integrity from the time of its construction. There have been no significant alterations to the exterior of the building since the completion of the addition in 1965. With respect to the interior, while many floors have been renovated and updated over the years, the general layout and office arrangement has remained more or less the same with hallways, elevator lobbies, restrooms, and stairwells remaining in the same location.

The setting around the National Old Line Insurance Co. Building has changed somewhat since the completion of the original section of the building; however, many of the commercial and office buildings in the area date to around the time of the completion of the addition. The exception is the Victory Building to the east of the National Old Line Insurance Co. Building, which was constructed around 2000.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1953-54, 1965

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1953-54, 1965

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Yandell Johnson, architect

Dickman-Pickens-Bond, builders

Petit & Petit, engineers



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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Originally constructed in 1954-55 with an addition completed in 1965, the National Old Line Insurance Company Building is regarded as the largest and one of the best examples of International Style architecture in the state of Arkansas. The building is an excellent example of the International Style of architecture in that it clearly demonstrates the three guiding principles of the style as described in the book *The International Style* by Philip Johnson and Henry-Russell Hitchcock. The building was also the largest welded steel frame building in the state when it was initially completed and then again when the addition was completed. Due to its importance as the largest and highest style example of early International Style architecture in Arkansas, the National Old Line Insurance Company Building is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under **Criterion C**.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The National Old Line Insurance Company was chartered on March 12, 1926, and opened its doors for business on the following Monday, March 15. The company was located in the 1926 Donaghey Building by Hunter McDonnell, located at the corner of Main and Seventh Streets in downtown Little Rock (NR listed 06/27/12).<sup>1</sup> The original officers of the company were W.F. Ault, president; Lewis H. Hinkle, Secretary; R.Q. Patterson, M.D., Medical Director; Geo. M. Lamberson, Vice President in Charge of Sales; O.G. Crittenden, In Charge of Conservation Dept.; and Geo. P. Green, Sales Promoter. It was chartered as an Old Line Legal Reserve Company, opposed to the more common fraternal life insurance companies of the time.<sup>2</sup> The company was born out of the idea that a local, Arkansas-based insurance company could and would better understand the needs of Arkansas families and be better able to service them, in comparison to an out of state, east coast based company. The National Old Line Insurance was limited to an issue of only 2,000 policies when it was first created to ensure a stable foundation for the company and to prevent it from expanding beyond its means too quickly.<sup>3</sup> The insurance field at the time was a very conservative one. In fact, as a later president remarked “to call an insurance company 'forward thinking' in 1926 was almost an insult.” W.F. Ault described the

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<sup>1</sup> National Old Line Insurance Company Advertisement. *The Arkansas Gazette*, 18 September 1927, Pg. 9.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> 1926-1976, National Old Line Insurance Company Fiftieth Anniversary. Little Rock: Self published, 1976, Np.

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company as “conservative enough to be safe yet progressive enough to be successful.”<sup>4</sup> This statement seemed to be true as the company grew quickly and became one of the largest life insurers in the state within only fifteen months.<sup>5</sup> The growth allowed the company to expand beyond Arkansas into Mississippi by 1929; however, the company's success was not immune to the effects of the Great Depression. Due to the company's conservative practices, they were able to weather the years of meager profits, when so many other insurers went under. Much of this was due to one salesman, William E. Darby.<sup>6</sup>

William Edson Darby was born in Bartlett, Tennessee, in 1904, but moved to Arkansas by the time he was four. Though Darby never graduated from high school, he had a reputation as a hard worker. At age nineteen, Darby moved to Detroit, Michigan, to seek his fortune. His first job there was as a pancake batter salesman, but a language barrier resulted in his termination from that position after only a week. He later went to work for the *Detroit Free Press*, where he stayed for five years. In late 1929, while visiting his family in Arkansas, Darby was offered a sales position at the newly organized National Old Line Insurance Company. While the details of the pitch are unknown, it was evidently so good that Darby signed a contract the following day. From 1930 to 1935, Darby was the sole producer of business for the company. Reportedly, he was given the goal of one million dollars of insurance issued and paid within one year. Darby met this goal in 128 days. He managed to sell enough policies during the height of the Depression to keep the company afloat, as well as make a decent amount of money for himself. As the country emerged from the Great Depression, the founding president of the National Old Line Insurance Company decided to step down. As a reward for his remarkable salesmanship and hard work, Darby was recalled from the field and promoted to president in 1945.<sup>7</sup>

National Old Line Insurance Company expanded into Louisiana in 1939 and into Alabama in 1944, giving them a four-state coverage. By the time Darby became president, the company was in need of more space. In 1946, the National Old Line Insurance Company moved out of the Donaghey Building and into the historic Solomon Gans House by Orlopp and Kusener at 1010 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, in downtown Little Rock (NR listed 03/29/84).<sup>8</sup> The following decade was one of even greater growth for the company. The total value of insurance policies by the company grew from eleven million in 1945 to 100 million by 1953, the operating territory grew to cover eighteen states, sales agents grew from four to 265, and the office staff grew from seven to seventy-three.<sup>9</sup> This enormous growth required even more space, which led Darby to the conclusion that they needed a building of their own that also projected the reliability and progressive ideals of the company.

The company had purchased lots seven through fifteen of block 344, across Woodlane Street from the Arkansas State Capitol Building in 1951 to be the site of new home office building.

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<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>5</sup> National Old Line Insurance Company Advertisement. *The Arkansas Gazette*, 18 September 1927, Pg. 9.

<sup>6</sup> 1926-1976, National Old Line Insurance Company Fiftieth Anniversary. Little Rock: Self published, 1976, Np.

<sup>7</sup> 1926-1976, National Old Line Insurance Company Fiftieth Anniversary. Little Rock: Self published, 1976, Np.

<sup>8</sup> Nichols, Cheryl Griffith. “Solomon Gans House, Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas.” National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. From the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 1984.

<sup>9</sup> 1926-1976, National Old Line Insurance Company Fiftieth Anniversary. Little Rock: Self published, 1976, Np.

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This area first appeared on Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps in 1897. At that time, there was a single dwelling with two outbuildings on lots eleven through thirteen, two dwellings and two outbuildings on lots fourteen and fifteen, which are shown as a single lot, a single dwelling and outbuilding on lots seven and eight, which are shown as individual plots, and no dwellings on lots nine and ten, which are shown as a single plot. Also present on the 1897 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map is an alley that runs east to west with lots eleven through fifteen on the north side and lots seven through ten on the south side and a north-south alley that runs beside lots fifteen and seven, dividing block 344 roughly in half. There is little change seen in the 1913 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, with the exception of the addition of a store structure on the northeast corner of lot thirteen. However, in the 1939 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, all of the structures on lots eleven through thirteen have been removed, and each lot is shown as individual plots. Also, the dwellings on lots seven and eight had been replaced with new dwellings, a single family house on lot seven and a duplex on lot eight. Lots nine and ten were still shown as a vacant. The final Sanborn Fire Insurance map created for Little Rock was done in 1950, but no changes were made on the lots purchased by the National Old Line Insurance Company.<sup>10</sup> By the time the company had purchased the property, there were only two houses remaining on the site and both were vacant.<sup>11</sup>

Darby selected local Little Rock architect, Yandell Johnson, to design the new home office of the National Old Line Insurance Company in 1954. Johnson's relationship with the National Old Line Insurance Company began in 1951 when he designed the first of two additions to rear of the Solomon Gans House at 1010 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.<sup>12</sup>

Joseph Yandell Johnson was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on October 1, 1911, to parents Joseph Yandell and Bertha Johnson. He graduated from Soldan High School in St. Louis in 1928, and decided to stay local for college, enrolling in the architecture program at Washington University in St. Louis.<sup>13</sup> It was during his college years that he met his wife Mary Pipkin, who was also an architecture student. They were married in 1931 and two years later, they graduated with Bachelor's degrees in Architecture. In 1934, Johnson completed his Master's Degree in Architecture, also from Washington University.<sup>14</sup>

In 1936, Johnson received the Harrison Steedman Traveling Fellowship to study affordable housing designs in Europe; however, the trip also enabled him to explore the Modernist works of Le Corbusier, Walter Gropius, Mies van der Rohe, and Alvar Aalto in person.<sup>15</sup> After his return, Johnson worked for the National Park Service to design structures for the Federal Recreation

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<sup>10</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Company. Sanborn maps for Little Rock, Arkansas. 1897, 1913, 1939, 1950.

<sup>11</sup> Johnson, Yandell J., "Modern Yet Historic, The National Old Line Building," *The Pulaski County Historical Review*, Spring 1998, pg. 18.

<sup>12</sup> Yandell Johnson Papers Finding Aid. University of Arkansas Little Rock Center for Arkansas History and Culture at the Arkansas Studies Institute. UALR.MS.0124.

<https://arstudies.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/findingaids/id/890>

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>14</sup> Gane, John F., AIA, ed. *American Architects Directory, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*. New York: R.R. Bowker, Company, 1970.

<sup>15</sup> Yandell Johnson Papers Finding Aid. University of Arkansas Little Rock Center for Arkansas History and Culture at the Arkansas Studies Institute. UALR.MS.0124.

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Demonstration Area at Cuiver River in Missouri. Around 1937, Johnson moved to Jonesboro, Arkansas, to partner with architect Elmer A. Stuck, designer of the Craighead County Courthouse, to create the firm of Stuck & Johnson, but the partnership was short lived. In 1939, he took a position as an architectural reviewer for the Federal Housing Administration until 1942 when the United States entered the war. During World War II Johnson served in the U.S. Navy as a photo interpreter in the Solomon Islands. After the war, Johnson returned to Arkansas where he and his wife started a private practice in Little Rock, which lasted for twenty-one years.<sup>16</sup>

From 1946 to 1967, Johnson designed over 385 buildings in Arkansas from his office in a renovated 1889 house at 113 E. Ninth Street in Little Rock, which was demolished in 2016.<sup>17</sup> The bulk of Johnson's work was composed of residences, including three houses for himself and two large subdivision projects, the Meadowcliff neighborhood in Little Rock and the Miramar neighborhood in Pine Bluff. However, he also designed a number of commercial buildings, a few churches, a couple of clinics, and at least one fire station. In fact, he designed a building for another insurance agency, the Murdock Acceptance Company, in 1951 at 6<sup>th</sup> and Cross streets. Another Johnson design, the Rogers-Wickard Clinic, once stood at the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Martin Luther King Boulevard, where the Department of Finance and Administration's parking lot is currently located.<sup>18</sup> This design was featured in the April 1951 *Progressive Architecture* magazine.<sup>19</sup> Nevertheless, it was his design for the National Old Line Insurance Company that was his most well-known and influential design.

Completed in December 1955, the National Old Line Insurance Company Building by Yandell Johnson is an example of the International Style of architecture. The name was created and the style first defined when Phillip Johnson and Henry-Russell Hitchcock created an exhibition in 1932 at the Museum of Modern Art, which featured photos and drawings of "modern" buildings from 15 countries, including the United States, which exemplified the movement. The exhibition was an effort to raise awareness and increase popularity of the new, "modern" forms of architecture. A book of the same title was published in late 1932 and further elaborated on the concepts and ethos of the exhibition. The term International Style was derived from the idea that a "modern" architecture should not take inspiration from the works and architectural experiments of various styles, architects, countries, and time periods, while also not applying any culturally specific, superficial ornamentation to the exterior. However, the International Style would embrace any localized stylistic variations that were born out of programmatic requirements necessitated by local climate or geography.<sup>20</sup> In this way, the International Style was not a set of architectural rules and stylistic motifs, but rather it was a collection of architectural ideas that embraced contemporary materials and construction practices. Because of this, examples of International Style architecture feature a wide variety of forms, materials, and typologies.

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<sup>16</sup> Gane, John F., AIA, ed. *American Architects Directory, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*. New York: R.R. Bowker, Company, 1970.

<sup>17</sup> Yandell Johnson Papers Finding Aid. University of Arkansas Little Rock Center for Arkansas History and Culture at the Arkansas Studies Institute. UALR.MS.0124.

<https://arstudies.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/findingaids/id/890>

<sup>18</sup> Gane, John F., AIA, ed. *American Architects Directory, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*. New York: R.R. Bowker, Company, 1970.

<sup>19</sup> Armstrong's Cork Tile Ad. *Progressive Architecture*, April 1951, pg. 157.

<sup>20</sup> Hitchcock, Henry-Russell, and Philip Johnson. *The International Style*. Pg.36.

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Johnson and Hitchcock set forth three guiding principles of the International Style, which can all be seen in the design of the National Old Line Building. The first principle was to design architecture as a volume instead of a mass. By this, they meant that contemporary architecture was built using structural steel or reinforced concrete frames, which were later enclosed with a protective exterior cladding. This method stood in contrast to traditional masonry construction of the time, in which the walls provided both support and enclosure. With the “new” system, floor plans could be more open, with little interruption of interior supports or columns. In cases where this occurs, the supports of contemporary buildings would take up a fraction of the space needed by masonry columns or could be removed altogether by cantilevering the structure.<sup>21</sup> In the National Old Line Building, the welded steel frame construction allowed for an entirely open, flexible plan. In fact, architect Yandell Johnson remarked:

“The advantage of choosing multiples of a foot-foot module for other building components led to economies of construction and flexibility of interior layout... sixteen-foot by forty-eight-foot column spacing all fit the design module and add to the flexibility of space use. Think of the possibilities for variations within spaces forty-eight feet by one hundred and sixteen feet without any interior columns. This flexibility was essential to meet the client’s needs.”<sup>22</sup>

In addition to the openness and flexibility of plan, which is achieved by the steel or concrete frame, the concept of volume instead of mass extends to the treatment of the enclosing envelope. Johnson and Hitchcock made a point to explain that the façade of the building should be continuous and flat, like a skin covering the exterior. This would give the impression that the façade is merely a barrier to protect against the weather and to provide definition.<sup>23</sup> This led to the windows on International-Style buildings being flush with the exterior surface of the façade, opposed to recessing them as was seen in traditional architecture. The windows should also have thin, light frames made of non-corroding metal in standardized sizes. Additionally, the wall surface material should be as smooth as possible, preferably being made of stone veneer, though stucco and wood panels were also acceptable when appropriate.<sup>24</sup>

As seen on the National Old Line Building, the ribbons of glazing and Alabama limestone wrap the façade in an almost unbroken manner over the entirety of the building. The windows, themselves, sit flush with the stone and were installed in the same modular scheme as the stone, thus allowing the facades to be read as single, flat surfaces. This effect is only interrupted by the projecting concrete sunshades, which were constructed on the same plane as the interior ceilings, which create a visual extension of the interior spaces.<sup>25</sup> Additionally, the overall horizontal feel

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<sup>21</sup> Hitchcock, Henry-Russell, and Philip Johnson. *The International Style*. Pg.55.

<sup>22</sup> Johnson, J. Yandell. “Modern Yet Historic, The National Old Line Building,” *The Pulaski County Historical Review*, Spring 1998, pg. 19.

<sup>23</sup> Hitchcock, Henry-Russell, and Philip Johnson. *The International Style*. Pg.59-61.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>25</sup> Johnson, J. Yandell. “Modern Yet Historic, The National Old Line Building,” *The Pulaski County Historical Review*, Spring 1998, pg. 20.

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that was created by the strips of glass and stone “did in effect reduce the building’s apparent height and [made] it less obtrusive to the neighborhood.”<sup>26</sup>

The second principle of International Style was concerning regularity. This principle was to serve as an external manifestation of the internal steel or concrete skeleton of the building. Since building frames were generally built on a grid, it only made rational sense that the grid should also extend to the fenestration of the envelope materials.<sup>27</sup> This is illustrated in the National Old Line Building in the form of a four-foot grid. According to Yandell Johnson:

“The design system makes use of both ‘modular’ dimensioned construction materials and repetition of a chosen dimension of building components.... The advantage of choosing multiples of a four-foot module for other building components led to economies of construction and flexibility of interior layout.”<sup>28</sup>

Because of the regularity of the four-foot module, seen in the exterior cladding, and the steel frame, as well as the interior ceiling tiles and floor heights, the building subconsciously reads as a singular, unified form. However, according to Johnson and Hitchcock, the concept of regularity should not lead to perfect symmetry, as this creates dull and lifeless facades.<sup>29</sup> Though the National Old Line Building has a generally symmetry now, the original sections of the building embraced asymmetry while still firmly displaying regularity. The northern end of the building extended to its full current height, while the middle section only rose two stories above Woodlane Street. At the connection of the two sections stood the only known example of a “smoke proof tower” in the state,<sup>30</sup> which was an enclosed fire escape staircase that is accessible only from an exterior balcony, a result of a short-lived fire code requirement. This tower also serves as the anomaly to the regularity of the design, a featured encouraged by Johnson and Hitchcock in their book on the International Style.<sup>31</sup>

The third and final principle of the International Style was the avoidance of applied ornamentation. This is likely the most sweeping principle of the three, as it included not only traditional cornice, door, and window molding, but also landscape design, fixtures, building lettering, and artwork.<sup>32</sup> This abstinence from decoration is one of the most well-known traits of the International Style, but also the most misunderstood. Johnson and Hitchcock meant this as ornament added without it serving a practical purpose. Elements that are necessary can have a decorative component; it just cannot overshadow the function of the element.

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<sup>26</sup> Johnson, J. Yandell. “Modern Yet Historic, The National Old Line Building,” *The Pulaski County Historical Review*, Spring 1998, pg. 18.

<sup>27</sup> Hitchcock, Henry-Russell, and Philip Johnson. *The International Style*. Pg.69-70.

<sup>28</sup> Johnson, J. Yandell. “Modern Yet Historic, The National Old Line Building,” *The Pulaski County Historical Review*, Spring 1998, pg. 19.

<sup>29</sup> Hitchcock, Henry-Russell, and Philip Johnson. *The International Style*. Pg.73.

<sup>30</sup> Johnson, J. Yandell. “Modern Yet Historic, The National Old Line Building,” *The Pulaski County Historical Review*, Spring 1998, pg. 19.

<sup>31</sup> Hitchcock, Henry-Russell, and Philip Johnson. *The International Style*. Pg.75.

<sup>32</sup> Hitchcock, Henry-Russell, and Philip Johnson. *The International Style*. Pg.81-89.



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At first glance, the National Old Line Building clearly adheres to the principle, as the building is lacking in any traditional architectural ornament. However, Yandell Johnson did add an ornamental facet to particular areas. The air intake openings and suite entries both shared a similar geometric screen. Additionally the original tile floors display a level of elaboration in their simple, repeating maroon and gray geometric design. Perhaps the most decorative element in the original design of the building is seen in the large black granite panel that would have greeted visitors in the original main lobby. Displayed in raised letters and in a simple, architectural font reads the company's name. Similar lettering was once installed above the first floor windows on the central section of the building; however, these have since been removed.

Despite the fact that the National Old Line Building clearly demonstrates all three principles of the International Style in an elegant and original way, according to Yandell Johnson, the building was not designed in a particular architectural style at all. As he said:

“To me, there is less of the ‘lessness’ of [the International] style, and I prefer to call it an example of the ‘Modern’ style...However, the building was not designed to fit into a style category. It happened in its day. It is one example of what one architect thought was a solution to a client's particular needs. Buildings are built with the materials and technologies available at the time and by architects who have accumulated their ideas and design philosophies from all that they have been taught, observed, or concluded up to the time the buildings are designed. With our training and experience, we hope that the result will be pleasing to the observer and the occupants.”<sup>33</sup>

Johnson's sentiments were common among Modern architects of time because Modern architecture was a rebellion against all of the historicized and revivalist styles of the first half of the twentieth century. This is why many architects of this period regarded “style” as a bad word and generally resisted attempts to group Mid-Century Modern architecture into stylistic categories.

Two months after the original section of the building was completed, the company held their official dedication and a three-day open house. Costing an estimated two million dollars, local newspapers reported that the building featured the most advanced and “modern” technology and design in the state and possibly the industry.<sup>34</sup> It was also the largest welded steel frame building in the state at the time.<sup>35</sup> The dedication was scheduled to coincide with the company's thirtieth anniversary, and was attended by Governor Orval Faubus, the Little Rock city mayor, and the presidents of both the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce and Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce.<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> Johnson, J. Yandell. “Modern Yet Historic, The National Old Line Building,” *The Pulaski County Historical Review*, Spring 1998, pg. 18.

<sup>34</sup> “National Old Line to Dedicate \$2-million Building This Week,” *Arkansas Gazette*. 12 February 1956, Pg. 2H.

<sup>35</sup> Johnson, J. Yandell. “Modern Yet Historic, The National Old Line Building,” *The Pulaski County Historical Review*, Spring 1998, pg. 19.

<sup>36</sup> “National Old Line to Dedicate \$2-million Building This Week,” *Arkansas Gazette*. 12 February 1956, Pg. 2H.

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There were two unusual features of the building that the newspapers failed to mention. The first was the penthouse apartment that occupied the sixth floor of the north tower. The three bedroom, three and a half bath living quarters was accessibly primarily through a single elevator, where the guest would select the sixth floor button instead of the general elevator call button. Though not verified by any official sources, building lore is that this apartment was built as a place to entertain and occasionally house prominent clients when they would come to visit. This is somewhat supported by the fact that no resident appears in the Little Rock City Directories until 1967.<sup>37</sup> Governor Winthrop Rockefeller and his family lived in the space between 1967-68, while renovation were being done on the Arkansas Governor's Mansion.<sup>38</sup>

The second unique feature to the National Old Line Building is a fixture only found in this building in Arkansas. It was the presence of female urinals in the women's restrooms. The unique plumbing fixture, called the "Sanistand" was created and marketed by American Standard Company around 1950; however, they never really caught on and were discontinued in 1970.<sup>39</sup> The distinctive fixture was "accepted with various degrees of enthusiasm," according to Yandell Johnson, but "they were not repeated later."<sup>40</sup> While the majority of the female urinals have since been replaced with more standard fixtures, there is a surviving example in the basement ladies' room of the north tower.

When National Old Line Insurance Company moved into their new building, they had an office staff of eighty people<sup>41</sup> and occupied roughly half of the building. The remaining office space rented out to other businesses, on short-term leases to ensure the company would be able to grow at its own pace.<sup>42</sup> Two years later the company passed the quarter billion dollar mark of insurance policies, which brought it into the top 20 percent of American life insurance companies. This meant that in the decade, from 1946 to 1956, National Old Line Insurance Company experienced a one thousand percent growth rate.<sup>43</sup>

In 1960, National Old Line Insurance Company merged with National Equity Life Insurance Company. The result of this union was a thirty-state coverage and over a half a billion dollars in insurance policy value. By 1961, the company had more than 400 agents and an office staff of 200. This sudden growth catapulted the company into the top ten percent of American life insurance companies in the country. The merger also added a new branch to the company, that of a Savings and Loan Division.<sup>44</sup> Due to this growth, by mid-1962 the National Old Line

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<sup>37</sup> Polk's Little Rock/North Little Rock City Directory, 1956-1968.

<sup>38</sup> Gill, John P.. *Open House: The Arkansas Governor's Mansion and Its Place in History*, pg. 9-10 .

<sup>39</sup> Moran, Rebecca Erin, "A Peek Into the Past," <http://rebeccak Moran.com/rrmatic/girls/back.html>

<sup>40</sup> Johnson, J. Yandell. "Modern Yet Historic, The National Old Line Building," *The Pulaski County Historical Review*, Spring 1998, pg. 19.

<sup>41</sup> 1926-1976, National Old Line Insurance Company Fiftieth Anniversary. Little Rock: Self published, 1976, Np.

<sup>42</sup> "National Old Line to Dedicate \$2-million Building This Week," *Arkansas Gazette*. 12 February 1956, Pg. 2H.

<sup>43</sup> 1926-1976, National Old Line Insurance Company Fiftieth Anniversary. Little Rock: Self published, 1976, Np.

<sup>44</sup> *Ibid.*

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Insurance Company had expanded to occupy the entire building and still needed more space.<sup>45</sup>  
They once again hired Yandell Johnson to provide them with architectural services.<sup>46</sup>

Johnson had planned for the expansion when he designed the original structure. However, the plans had to be altered from the originally proposed scheme to include more space for the ever-expanding company. The resulting design added four floors to the former two story south wing and created a new south wing that essentially mirrored the north wing in both design and scale. However, roughly doubling the size of the building was not enough space for the company's projected growth. To accomplish this new requirement without exceeding the local height restrictions, Johnson designed the proposed south wing addition to extend two more floors below the basement.<sup>47</sup> As with the original structure, the addition would be constructed from a welded steel frame with concrete block infill and Alabama limestone cladding. Dedication ceremonies were held for the addition on April 22, 1965.<sup>48</sup> That same year, the National Old Line Building was featured in an exhibition at the Arkansas Arts Center in Little Rock entitled "Arkansas Architecture." Cosponsored by the Arkansas Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, the exhibit ran from July 3 to August 29, 1965, and highlighted remarkable and acclaimed examples of "modern" architecture in Arkansas.<sup>49</sup>

The company continued to prosper in the coming years and they achieved their first billion in insurance policies in January of 1969, their second billion in 1971, and their third billion in 1975, just in time for their golden anniversary.<sup>50</sup> The size and success of the company had made it a force to be reckoned with in the insurance world, which led to it being bought by the international insurance company Ennia in 1982. A year later Ennia and another international insurance powerhouse, AGO, merged to create AEGON Insurance Company and National Old Line Insurance was finally dissolved.<sup>51</sup> AEGON Insurance Company continued to own the building and had offices here until 1997 when the building was sold to the Arkansas Teachers Retirement System. A few years later, the Arkansas Building Authority purchased the building and moved their offices into it. This agency, now part of the Department of Finance and Administration, oversees the maintenance and care of most state-owned properties. The Arkansas Building Authority, now the Division of Building, still has offices here but rents out most of the building to various other state agencies and entities.<sup>52</sup>

In 2013, the Arkansas State University System leased the sixth floor of the National Old Line Building to house their central offices near the Arkansas State Capitol. Prior to their leasing the floor, it had been vacant since the early 1990s and was in need of substantial repairs. ASU hired the Little Rock based Cromwell Architects Engineers firm to assist with the work. The entire

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<sup>45</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>46</sup> Johnson, J. Yandell. "Modern Yet Historic, The National Old Line Building," *The Pulaski County Historical Review*, Spring 1998, pg. 20.

<sup>47</sup> Johnson, J. Yandell. "Modern Yet Historic, The National Old Line Building," *The Pulaski County Historical Review*, Spring 1998, pg. 20.

<sup>48</sup> 1926-1976, National Old Line Insurance Company Fiftieth Anniversary. Little Rock: Self published, 1976, Np.

<sup>49</sup> "Arkansas Architecture" exhibition Catalogue. Little Rock: Arkansas Arts Center, 1965, Np.

<sup>50</sup> 1926-1976, National Old Line Insurance Company Fiftieth Anniversary. Little Rock: Self published, 1976, Np.

<sup>51</sup> "A Brief History of Aegon." <https://www.aegon.com/about/history/>

<sup>52</sup> Information on 501 Woodlane Street in the files of the Pulaski County Assessor's office.

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sixth floor was renovated to better suit their needs. This included reorganizing the former penthouse apartment into a reception area and offices for the ASU President, Executive Vice President, and the Vice President of University Relations, all while maintaining the essential feel of the former residence. Additionally, the central section of the floor was changed from a wide corridor with space for secretarial cubical and corresponding offices into two conference rooms and a catering kitchen. The south wing was simply given a facelift, but the floor plan remained the same. The renovations were completed in late 2014 and ASU moved into the space in the Fall of that year.<sup>53</sup>

After the completion of the National Old Line project, Yandell Johnson continued to produce architectural designs in central Arkansas. In 1967, Johnson was named a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. That same year, he decided to close his private practice and go work at the prestigious firm of Ginocchio, Cromwell, Carter & Neyland, Inc., now known as the Cromwell Firm. He would stay there until 1970 when he moved over to one of the other prominent Little Rock firms Erhart, Eichenbaum, Rauch, Blass & Chilcote, where he stayed until his final retirement in 1978. Yandell Johnson passed away in 2000 at the age of 89.<sup>54</sup>

## **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPERTY**

Originally constructed in 1954-55 with an addition completed in 1965, the National Old Line Insurance Company Building is regarded as the largest and one of the best examples of International Style architecture in the state of Arkansas. The building is an excellent example of the International Style of architecture in that it clearly demonstrates the three guiding principles of the style as described in the book *The International Style* by Philip Johnson and Henry-Russell Hitchcock. The building was also the largest welded steel frame building in the state when it was initially completed and then again when the addition was completed. Due to its importance as the largest and highest style example of early International Style architecture in Arkansas, the National Old Line Insurance Company Building is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under **Criterion C**.

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<sup>53</sup> Bates, Julie M.. Conversations with author. 18 July 2018.

<sup>54</sup> Yandell Johnson Papers Finding Aid. University of Arkansas Little Rock Center for Arkansas History and Culture at the Arkansas Studies Institute. UALR.MS.0124.  
<https://arstudies.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/findingaids/id/890>

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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*Arkansas Democrat*, 12 February 1956, Pg. 7D.

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Yandell Johnson Papers Finding Aid. University of Arkansas Little Rock Center for Arkansas History and Culture at the Arkansas Studies Institute. UALR.MS.0124. Found at: <https://arstudies.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/findingaids/id/890>

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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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Arkansas Studies Institute.

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** PU4523



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### 10. Geographical Data

**Acreege of Property** 1.04 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

#### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

**Or**

#### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |             |                 |                   |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 15 | Easting: 565216 | Northing: 3845095 |
| 2. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 3. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 4. Zone:    | Easting :       | Northing:         |

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**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Parcel Number: 34L0201802600. More specifically described as "LOTS 7-12, BLOCK 344 OF BEACH SUBDIVISION & W8' OF ALLEY E & ADJ TO LOTS 7 & 15 CLOSED ORD 13003".

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary contains the land that is historically associated with the National Old Line Insurance Company Building.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Mason Toms, Exterior Design Consultant and Architectural  
Historian  
organization: Main Street Arkansas  
street & number: 1100 North Street  
city or town: Little Rock state: AR zip code: 72201  
e-mail mason.toms@arkansas.gov  
telephone: (501) 324-9192  
date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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## Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and does not need to be labeled on every photograph.

## Photo Log

Name of Property: National Old Line Insurance Co. Building

City or Vicinity: Little Rock

County: Pulaski

State: Arkansas

Photographer: Mason Toms

Date Photographed:

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 22. West façade looking east
- 2 of 22. Northwest corner looking southeast
- 3 of 22. North façade looking south
- 4 of 22. Northeast corner looking southwest
- 5 of 22. Southeast corner of the North wing looking northwest
- 6 of 22. North end of East façade looking west
- 7 of 22. South end of East façade looking southwest
- 8 of 22. Northeast corner of South wing looking southeast
- 9 of 22. Closer photo of northeast corner of South wing looking southeast
- 10 of 22. Southeast corner looking northwest
- 11 of 22. South façade looking north
- 12 of 22. Southwest corner looking northeast
- 13 of 22. Commemorative plaque at north entrance
- 14 of 22. Commemorative plaque at west entrance
- 15 of 22. Granite name panel in west lobby
- 16 of 22. Decorative air vents in west lobby
- 17 of 22. Mosaic floor tile in west lobby
- 18 of 22. North entrance foyer/hallway
- 19 of 22. Typical floor corridor

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- 20 of 22. Typical corner office
- 21 of 22. Basement level vault door
- 22 of 22. Female urinal in north wing basement level Women's Room

**Historic Images**

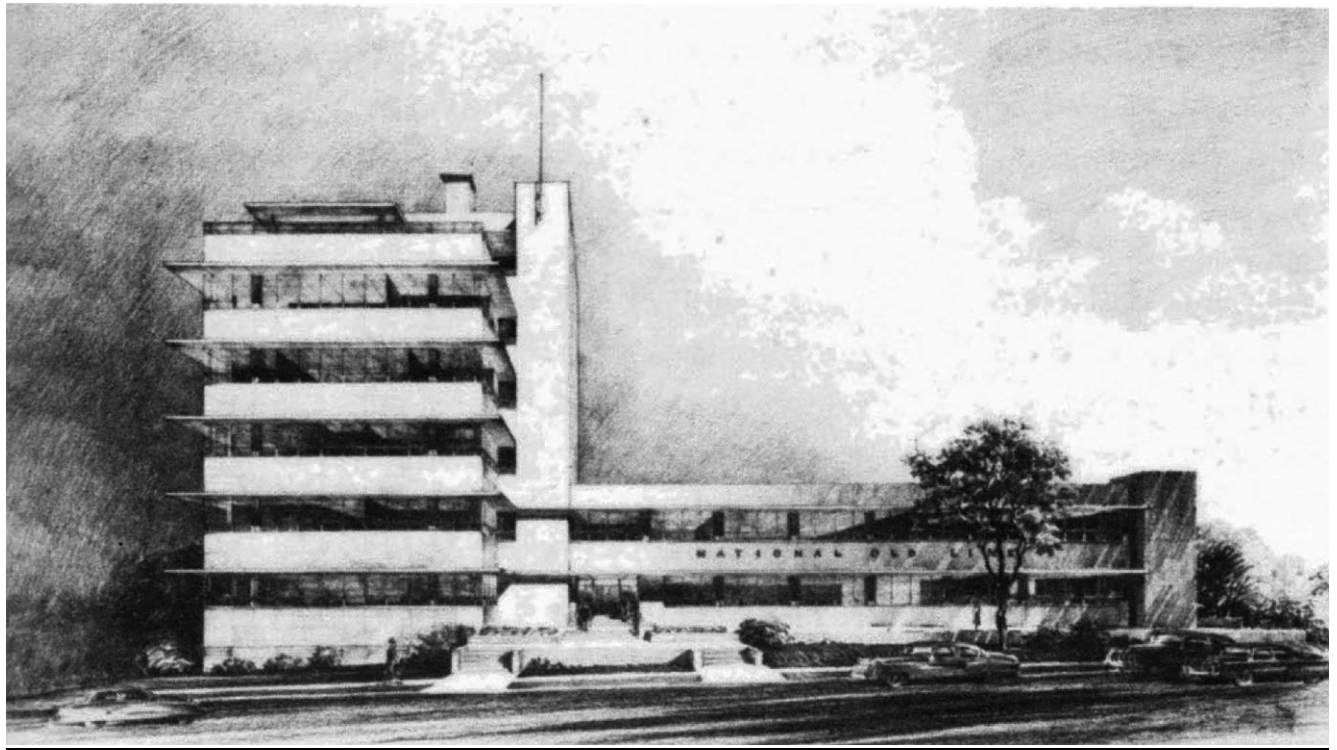


Fig. 1 – Architect's rendering of original design, ca. 1954

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Fig. 2 – Original building after completion, looking northeast, ca. 1956



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Fig. 3 – Original building after completion, looking southwest, ca. 1956



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Fig. 4 – Original west entrance

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Fig. 5 – First floor elevator lobby

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Fig. 6 – Office corridor



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Fig. 7 – National Old Line Building during construction of addition, ca. 1964

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Fig. 8 – National Old Line Building near completion of the addition, ca. 1965



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Fig. 9 – National Old Line Building after completion of the addition, ca. 1965

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



|-----579'-----|

National Old Line Insurance Co. Building

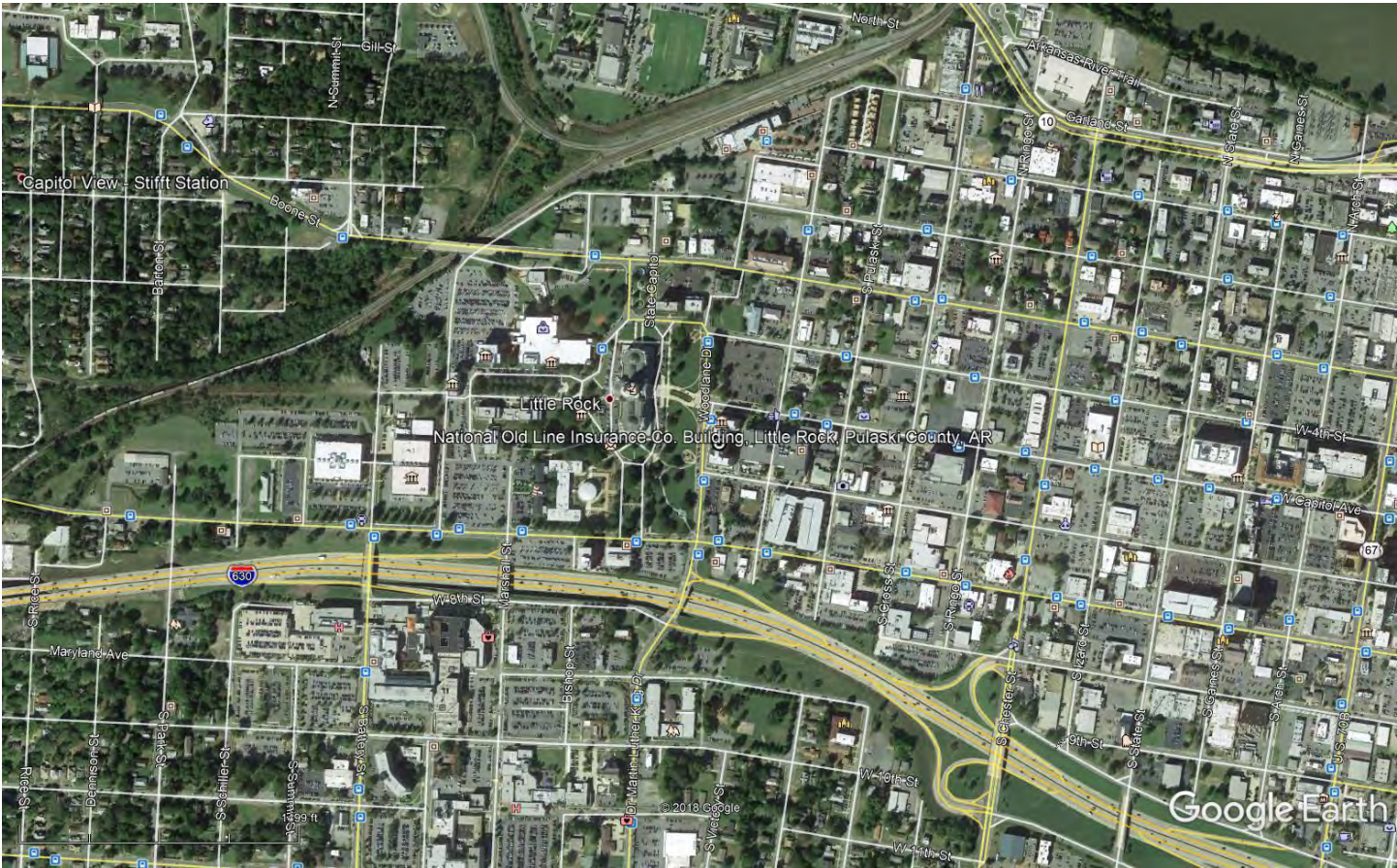
Little Rock, Pulaski County, AR

15 565216E 3845095N



North





|-----1499'-----|

National Old Line Insurance Co. Building

Little Rock, Pulaski County, AR

15 565216E 3845095N



North









FSU SYSTEM

Woodlane  
Capitol

Yellow diamond pedestrian crossing sign with a black silhouette of a person walking and a black arrow pointing left.





**ASU**  
ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY  
SYSTEM

501  
Woodlane  
Street





























SEE  
READING  
ROOMS  
AT  
CORNELL  
UNIVERSITY  
LIBRARY





PARKING





DO NOT  
ENTER

Woodlane St 600

STOP





# NATIONAL OLD LINE INSURANCE COMPANY

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

1955

T. F. TAYLOR, JR.	CH. BOARD OF DIRECTORS	RUSSELL L. KING	ACTUARY
W. E. DARBY	PRESIDENT	L. H. HINKLE	ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.
H. A. WINTERS	EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT	R. E. McLOCHLIN, M.D.	MEDICAL DIRECTOR
BELOIT TAYLOR	FIRST V. P. & GEN. COUNSEL	C. S. PULLEY	AGENCY SUPT.
L. J. CASEY	SECRETARY-TREASURER	W. A. EDGREN	COMPTROLLER
H. D. DARBY	VICE PRESIDENT	E. F. JACKSON	ASSISTANT COUNSEL
J. HERBERT GRAVES	VICE PRESIDENT	C. CAGLE BOWERS	ASST. SECY.-TREAS.
LEE KELONE, JR.	VICE PRESIDENT	R. T. LaFOLLETTE, JR.	ASSISTANT SECRETARY
J. B. FINLEY	VICE PRESIDENT	R. H. WILSON	ASSISTANT SECRETARY



NATIONAL OLD LINE  
INSURANCE COMPANY

1954

T. F. TAYLOR, JR.  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

W. E. DARBY  
PRESIDENT

BELOIT TAYLOR  
1ST VICE PRESIDENT  
GENERAL COUNSEL

L. J. CASEY  
SECRETARY  
TREASURER

H. D. DARBY  
VICE PRESIDENT

J. HERBERT GRAVES  
VICE PRESIDENT

YANDELL JOHNSON  
ARCHITECT

H. ALLEN GIBSON      PETTIT & PETTIT  
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

DICK MANN - PICKENS - BOND  
GENERAL CONTRACTORS



NORTH ELEVATORS SOUTH ELEVATORS

13 11 9

STATE OF TEXAS

The image shows a modern elevator control panel. It features two main sections: 'NORTH ELEVATORS' on the left and 'SOUTH ELEVATORS' on the right. Each section includes a blue directional arrow icon and the text 'STATE OF TEXAS' with a circular seal. In the center, there are three large, white, circular floor buttons labeled '13', '11', and '9'. To the right of these are several smaller, unlabeled buttons. The panel is mounted on a wall above a glass entrance.

# NATIONAL OLD LINE INSURANCE CO

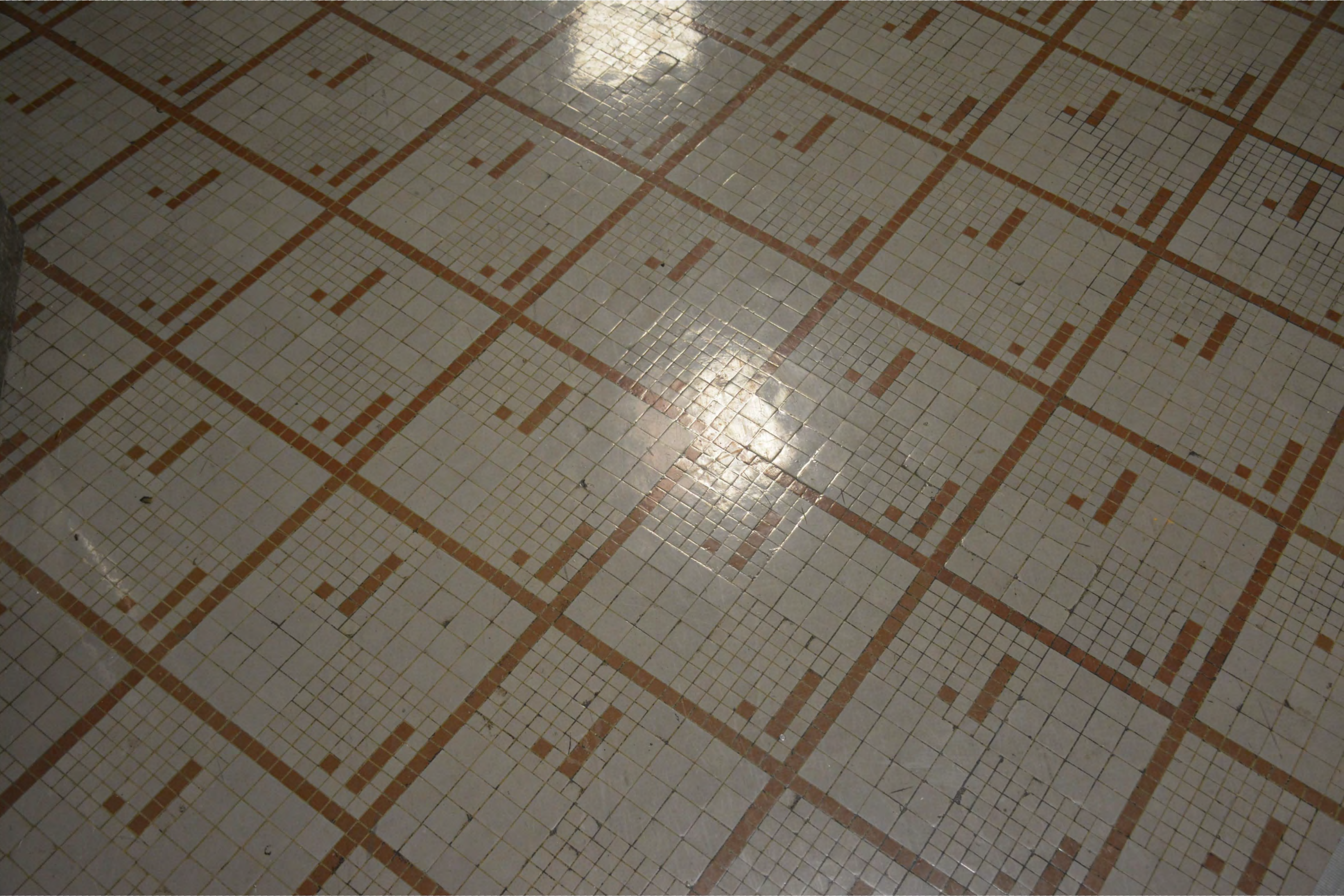






EMERGENCY  
EXIT  
PUSH









G-01  
200 - Research Building Lobby  
Lobby - Please Wait



Information  
200 - Research Building Lobby  
Lobby - Please Wait



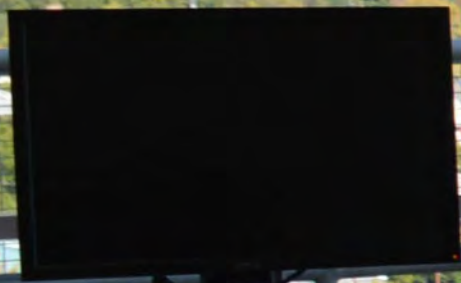


CAUTION  
WET FLOOR

AED

3





SPEED LIMIT 3.1







YALE

DESIGNED AND BUILT  
BY THE  
HEADING HALL-MARVIN SAFE CO.  
HAMILTON, OHIO.







UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination  
Property Name: National Old Line Insurance Company Building  
Multiple Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
State & County: ARKANSAS, Pulaski

Date Received: 4/16/2019      Date of Pending List: 5/2/2019      Date of 16th Day: 5/17/2019      Date of 45th Day: 5/31/2019      Date of Weekly List: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference number: SG100003985  
Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review:

- |                                       |  |   |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal       | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL            | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photo   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver       | <input type="checkbox"/> National        | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other        | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP             | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
|                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG             |   |

Accept       Return       Reject      5/28/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: A very good example of early (non-miesian) international style office building. The emphasis on horizontal planes, banded windows, and smooth wall surfaces is reminiscent of the Bauhaus-influenced school of design. The 1965 addition was done by the original architect and seamlessly blends in with the original design.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept / C

Reviewer Jim Gabbert      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS  
**HERITAGE**

Asa Hutchinson  
*Governor*

Stacy Hurst  
*Director*

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Historic  
Preservation Program

Arkansas Natural  
Heritage Commission

Arkansas State Archives

Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars  
Cultural Center

Old State House Museum



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April 3, 2019

Joy Beasley, Keeper and Chief  
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs  
National Register of Historic Places  
1849 C Street, NW  
Mail Stop 7228  
Washington D.C. 20240

RE: National Old Line Insurance Building – Little Rock, Pulaski  
County, Arkansas

Dear Ms. Beasley:

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the National Old Line Insurance Building to the National Register of Historic Places. 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 J. Mason Toms of my staff at (501) 324-9192. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Stacy Hurst  
State Historic Preservation Officer

SH:jmt

Enclosure