United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

County and State

Date Listed: 1/24/2019

Section number \_\_\_\_\_

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

# SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 100003334

Property Name: Ross Building

Page

County: Pulaski

State: AR

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation 70

Signature of the Keeper

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8: Criteria/Area of Significance

Criterion A and Commerce are hereby deleted. The nomination provides no justification for the commercial importance of the property; there is no comparative context in commerce. The relatively short commercial use of the property belies historic significance, and the changes/alterations to the interior (not shown in any photographs) diminishes the historic commercial space of this late 19<sup>th</sup> century building.

Section 8: Period of Significance

The Period of Significance is hereby changed to c. 1895-1900

This period most likely reflects the development of the building as it stands today.

The Arkansas State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

# DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

2.25.2019

Date of Action

56 3334

#### NPS Form 10-900 United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# 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: \_Ross Building

Other names/site number: Site #PU9956, Schiller Grocery Store

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

### 2. Location

| 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  $\underline{X}$  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  $\underline{X}$  meets <u>does</u> does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

| plicable National Register Criteria:  | local  |
|---|--|
| $\underline{A} \underline{B} \underline{X} C \underline{D}$                       |  |
| Sticy Hunt  | 10-12-18   |
| Signature of certifying official/Title:<br>Arkansas Historic Preservation Program | Date   |
| State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal  | Government   |
| In my opinion, the property meets d   | oes not meet the National Register criteria            |
| Signature of commenting official:   | Date   |
| Title :   | State or Federal agency/bureau<br>or Tribal Government |

Ross Building Name of Property Pulaski County, Arkansas County and State

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- X 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

Date of Action

# 5. Classification

101 1

#### **Ownership of Property**

| Private:         | x as apply.) |
|------------------|--------------|
| Public – Local   |              |
| Public – State   |              |
| Public – Federal |              |

#### **Category of Property**

| ( | Chec   | k | on      | lv | one | box.) | ) |
|---|--------|---|---------|----|-----|-------|---|
| л | 011001 |   | ~ · · · | ·  |     | OUL.  |   |

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

# Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.) <u>COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store</u> INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/manufacturing facility

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE/professional

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### 7. Description

### **Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/ Commercial Style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: STONE

Walls: BRICK/STONE/CONCRETE Roof: TAR/COMPOSITION SHINGLES

#### **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.)

#### **Summary Paragraph**

The Ross Building, located at 700 S. Schiller, Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas, is a former grocery store, residential house, mattress factory, antique store, and architectural firm. Constructed in 1895, the location of this building has made it part of the ever-changing makeup of the heart of Little Rock as the surrounding area changed over time.<sup>1</sup> As a grocery store, the property had ties with the German-American population in the city, when its immediate neighbors was a dense collection of residences. Much of the working-class homes and commercial storefronts are gone due to redevelopment and the influx of state-government office buildings, leaving the Ross Building a notable structure at that area of the city. Changes had threatened 700 Schiller's existence with the development of an interstate highway, I-630, that runs next to it. The Ross Building is a one-story brick and stone building with a basement in the rear. The front is covered with a standard storefront flat roof. The rear addition, added in 1896-1897, has a hip roof. Among its exterior features, 700 Schiller features tall rounded windows and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Capitol Area Survey of 700 S. Schiller, Quapaw Quarter Association, 1978.

Pulaski County, Arkansas County and State

high ceilings. The outside of the building has stayed relatively the same since construction, but the interior has undergone significant changes due to evolving uses.

### **Narrative Description**

The Ross Building is a one-story commercial building. It was constructed in 1895 and exhibits Commercial-Style architecture with a horizontal form, a flat façade, and bay windows. The original building was constructed in 1895, and has a continuous foundation that is made of stone. The one-part block was a simple rectangular building with an elegant façade that typically incorporated a flat roof with parapet detail, a style often used for commercial spaces. The Schiller Street facade, facing east, includes the main entrance and five, storefront, bay windows to advertise products. Canvas awnings with a valance protrude over these elements and over a planked sidewalk, which were common in Main Street architecture. The front offers few ornamental features other than a stone frame in between the windows and front door. The 7<sup>th</sup> Street facade includes other windows and reveals the distinction of the original structure with the addition. The rear addition was added in 1896-1897 and has a hip roof. It is primarily made of cut stone, painted white, and topped by a hip roof of composition shingles. The rear addition was built for added store floor space and residential space for the grocery's employees and other tenants. The exterior exhibits typical features of a storefront from its time with some residential elements in the rear. This residential inclusion involves the presence of two small balconies that face south. The building is covered in an acrylic latex paint in a white color. A masonry wall encompasses the rear section and offers secondary access to the basement. While the building no longer operates as a grocery store, the original, interior arrangement has been altered. There are five rooms on the top level with high ceilings and include little historical integrity due to extensive rehabilitation. The full basement, for many years left unfinished, is separated into four other rooms.

# **Structure Description**

# East Façade (front)

The front of the building, part of the original 1895 structure, faces Schiller Street. A flat roof with parapet detail borders the top of the structure. The building's front façade is flat and made of primarily white, painted brick. The building includes a symmetrical set of six sets of slightly recessed bays made up of five sets of windows and the main entrance. The layout of the windows and doors is asymmetrical with the door located within the third bay to the left (south). Canvas awnings are attached on the façade over each bay and are attached with a steel frame.

The five sets of windows are identical with double-hung four-over-four French windows in sequenced openings. The windows are surrounded by rock-faced lintels with lug sills on the side, with the rock flushed with the brick facade. The customer-entry, double doors leading into the original grocery store, is made of wood and consists of six lights over a double door with one large window on each door.

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# South Façade

The south façade faces I-630. Although the roof line cuts at an angle making the front part, the original part of the building, higher than the rear, the side of the building is flat. There are no windows on the front portion of the building that consists of the flat roof. The rear side of the south façade consists of two glass stationary windows with eight panes. A cornice is present below the hip roof line that wraps around the corner. Two, metal single-hung windows with four-over-four lights and the frame painted white are outlined above and below with gray, stone lintels. A belt course matching the gray stone of the foundation and lintels wraps around to the rear. From the northern side of the elevation, the façade is brick painted white, the same as the front. As the ground slopes downward, exposing the basement, the material is cut stones painted white. The stones are the same material as the foundation and lintels. The basement windows are single-hung, long, and narrow with eight glass panels.

# West Façade (rear)

The west façade of the structure shows the one-story portion of the building and the basement, giving it the appearance of a two-story building. A cornice of the same style as the side goes across the roof line. Starting from the top of the façade, the exterior surface of the structure is again white painted brick, then separated by a stone course belt, and the basement is white-painted stone. On the top level, there are two symmetrical, metal, single-hung windows on both sides of the west façade and are consistent with the style on the front and sides of the building with a canvas awning positioned over each. In the center of this top level is a narrow double French glass door, made of wood, with three panels on each side. A transom is above the door with three lights. The top and bottom of these doors have stone lintels. There is also a small iron balcony with white-painted railing. The lower level, the basement, contains white painted stone with the same style of windows and doors as the top level. In the center is a wooden door with cut glass detail that enters the basement. The top of the door has a transom of three lights. On the northern side of the wall, in between the window and door, there is a metal speaker that was part of an intercom system.

Looking from the northern side, the original structure recedes into the lot and cuts at a 90 degree angle. There is single-pane glass window that apparently replaced a matching French glass door, as it includes an iron balcony.

A masonry wall, painted white to match the building, originates from the north façade. It encloses a small courtyard. The wall includes square posts topped with an urn. On the southern side of the wall, iron fencing replaces a section of the masonry and opens up the courtyard.

# North Façade

The north façade faces 7<sup>th</sup> Street and shows the flat-roofed front building with white painted brick on the top and stone detail near the bottom. From the eastern end of this side, the wall cuts

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Name of Property County and State into a 90 degree angle and travels into the lot before another 90 degree angle. There is a large window with sixteen glass panels with a long wood lintel. Traveling westward, the back side of this façade consists of two, glass, metal windows with eight panes placed above the course belt. The top and bottom of the metal windows are outlined with a stone frame. Below the belt course, the basement windows are long and narrow with eight glass panels.

#### Interior

The interior of the building includes several sections. The front portion of the building has a conference room, storage room, office, and foyer. The back addition to the building is one-and-a-half stories. The main level consists of one main waiting area and the downstairs consists of office space, a bathroom, and kitchen. The interior holds no original appearance as the building has been adapted to new uses.

### Integrity

The Ross House has retained structural integrity. The exterior mostly exhibits original materials. The canvas awnings have been replaced over the years and the siding has been replaced on the South East corner of the building due to a car hitting it during an ice storm.<sup>2</sup> The interior of the building has been reconfigured over the years as the building's use has changed, but it does still reflect a residential layout, something that did exist in the building during the historic period. The setting around the building has also changed as many buildings have been removed, but the Ross Building is still able to convey its historic function and design.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Katie Barron, Interview with Joe Stanley, one of the founding members of Polk Stanly Wilcox Architects. Joe Stanley, Oral History Interview, 22 June 2018.

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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

# Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

# COMMERCE ARCHITECTURE

Ross Building Name of Property Pulaski County, Arkansas County and State

**Period of Significance** 1895-1960

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates** 

\_\_\_\_\_1895

# **Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.) N/A\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation** 

\_N/A\_\_\_\_\_

#### Architect/Builder

\_\_\_\_\_

N/A

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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.)

The Ross Building, located at 700 South Schiller Street, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A**, with **local significance**, for its associations with commercial history of Little Rock. This building operated as a grocery store owned by a German-American immigrant, Charles E. Ross, from 1895 until 1930. During the 1920s, the United States saw a rise in chain grocery stores that put an end to many privately owned stores, including the Ross Building.<sup>3</sup> In 1934, the building was used as a residential property with city directories listing Robert Thornton, a blacksmith, and his wife as occupants.<sup>4</sup> From 1935 to 1960 the property was again used as a place of business. Capitol Mattress Co. used the building to renovate mattresses. The property is situated in what was the original path for Interstate 630; however, several individuals were able to influence the path of road construction. Moise Seligman, Jr., was one of those individuals and made 700 S. Schiller his home. He did some renovation to the property during his stay at the house. The company, Polk, Stanley, Saunders Ltd., used the building for office space for some time before it was sold again.

This building is also being nominated under **Criterion C**, with **local significance**, as an excellent example of a late 19<sup>th</sup> century commercial block. It is one of the last remaining structures of this kind around the Arkansas State Capitol. As the area underwent a period of major redevelopment, office buildings replaced commercial structures. The period of significance, from 1895 to 1960, is inclusive of the launch of the grocery store to the closing of the mattress factory.

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

# Brief History of Little Rock, Pulaski County, State Capitol and Surrounding Area

Pulaski County was established in 1819 as one of Arkansas Territory's five original counties. In 1821, the capital moved to Little Rock as it was the geographical center of the territory and on the south bank of the Arkansas River. Since the territory's three major landforms all joined there, Little Rock was a natural political center.<sup>5</sup> U.S. Congress granted Arkansas statehood in 1836, and Little Rock grew. As the city's residents started to move westward to the city's outer sections, several factors influenced the area's subsequent development.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> James M. Mayo, *The American Grocery Store: The Business Evolution of an Architectural Space*, Westport, CN: Greenwood Press, 1993, 85.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Little Rock City Directories. Little Rock: R.L. Polk & Co. Publishers, 1934.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> James W. Bell, "Little Rock (Pulaski County)," *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*, last updated February 7, 2018.

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New residents even began to settle in simple, wood-framed dwellings around the State Penitentiary by the 1870s. The 1841 prison, constructed on a hilltop, had consisted of large housing blocks, administrative support buildings, a broom factory, a sawing mill, and a printing shop.<sup>6</sup>

Railways were introduced to the area in 1873 with the construction of the Baring Cross Bridge and the Cairo and Fulton Railroad Station. Soon the Memphis and Little Rock Railroad opened, sparking the need for more working-class housing and neighborhood commercial stores.<sup>7</sup> In 1921, Union Station opened. It was later called MoPac Station when the St. Louis, Iron Mountain, and Southern Railway merged into Missouri Pacific.<sup>8</sup> The area's population only grew as rail workers moved around the station and penitentiary. Boarding houses, hotels, and neighborhood stores went up, thus adding to the collection of single-family homes.

In 1899, the state had outgrown the Old State House, so it set forth plans to build the new State Capitol on the grounds of the State Penitentiary. Architect George Mann designed the proposed Neo-Classical capitol building, although construction was slow due to various political controversies and fiscal considerations.<sup>9</sup> By January 1, 1915, the building was completed.

These elements aided the area's development to some 300 dwellings. Once rail transportation declined in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, the use of the MoPac station dropped. Many of the old, single-family homes gave way to neglect and are no longer standing. The City of Little Rock rezoned the area from residential to commercial use. The old residential neighborhood soon disappeared entirely as developers demolished entire blocks of homes.<sup>10</sup> State government began to acquire more property and erected office buildings to house its various agencies. Only an assortment of residences and quiet retail, such as the Ross Building, remain.

# History of the Ross Building

The building located on 700 S. Schiller was built in 1895 in what was then a predominately residential area. It was first used as a grocery store even though it stood a good distance from Little Rock's population center.<sup>11</sup> Just down the street from the State Penitentiary, the store's proprietors took advantage of cheaper land but still enjoyed the benefits of occupying a corner. The business model around a 19<sup>th</sup> century grocery store aimed to avoid investing in prime downtown real estate and other unnecessary overhead costs. Instead, grocery stores moved to residential areas near its customers, thus creating the trend of neighborhood grocery stores in many cities.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> "Rules and Master Plan" (Capitol Zoning District Commission, Little Rock, Arkansas, 2016), 99.
<sup>7</sup> Ibid, 103.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> "National Register of Historic Places, Nomination Form, MoPac Station," *Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Department of Arkansas Heritage*, accessed August 22, 2018.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> "National Register of Historic Places, Nomination Form, Arkansas State Capitol," Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Department of Arkansas Heritage, accessed June 18, 2018.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Sanborn maps, Library of Congress, 1913, Sheet 23.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Capitol Area Survey of 700 S. Schiller, Quapaw Quarter Association, 1978.

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The architecture of the grocery store resembled retail stores in the general area. Facades emulated the vernacular architecture of the time, but an image still needed to be presented to the public. Glass windows and painted cloth awnings were prominent in grocery stores of that time. The windows were useful in displaying goods to the public, and awnings were to protect pedestrians from the weather while walking by the store. While the use of awnings was typical among grocery stores, the Ross Building did not follow national requirements set forth for grocery stores. These stores often had local storage requirements, local building trends, and building codes, thus fitting with its surrounding area.<sup>12</sup> It was constructed near the property line at the front and sides, leaving wide space to the rear of the building.

The grocery store had a lengthy list of workers including grocers, clerks, and helpers. Many of whom actually lived in the store. Soon after the building's initial construction and launch, an addition was erected in 1896 and 1897. This included added depth of floor space and at least one dwelling unit. Designers positioned two small balconies at the building's rear, where residents could step outside, and a hip roof on top. Also, a rear entrance allowed access in and out of the basement. There is reason to believe that these residents had included employees of the store as city directories listed occupants with grocer occupations.<sup>13</sup>

The property at 700 S. Schiller had German-American ties during its time as a grocery store. The original owner was Charles E. Ross.<sup>14</sup> Ross was born in Germany in 1846. He traveled from London to New York on a ship called *The Queen*, arriving on May 13, 1871.<sup>15</sup> Ross owned the grocery store and apparently hired several other German-Americans to work there.<sup>16</sup> Immigration brought about changes to the grocery trade in the late 19th century. Because of the rise in immigration there was a need for more specialty shops in cities.<sup>17</sup> However, it is not clear if the Ross Building specifically catered to Little Rock's thriving German community that included many businesses, a German-language newspaper, and the German National Bank. It is likely it served the immediate neighborhood as a whole.

Interestingly, there is no known documented evidence of the grocery store's name. City directories over the years listed only the grocer and not the store name. However, previous surveys conducted by a Little Rock historic preservation advocacy organization, the Quapaw Quarter Association, indicated that it could have been called the Chestnut House. The name suggests that the building could have picked up that name due to German owners. In Germany, chestnuts are part of a popular holiday tradition.

As the 1920s forced the grocery industry to adapt, so did the Ross Building. Chain grocery stores started to spread across the United State during the 1920s. This along with department stores, companies that featured mail-order groceries, competition drove many of these small, privately

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Mayo, *The American Grocery Store*, 46-52.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Little Rock City Directories. Little Rock: R.L. Polk & Co. Publishers.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Capitol Area Survey of 700 S. Schiller, Quapaw Quarter Association, 1978.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, New York, 1820-1897, U.S. Customs Service Records, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Little Rock City Directories. Little Rock: R.L. Polk & Co. Publishers.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Mayo, The American Grocery Store.

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owned stores out of business.<sup>18</sup> New residents rented out the rear dwelling unit with mostly working-class occupations. This included Robert Thornton, a blacksmith, who lived there until 1935, when the structure found a new use.

Between 1935 and 1960 Capitol Mattress Co. renovated mattresses at 700 S. Schiller. The 1939 Sanborn map shows 700 Schiller as a mattress factory.<sup>19</sup> The building still acted partially as a residence as Lloyd M. Taylor, a clerk, was listed at this address in 1939.<sup>20</sup>

The property was bought by Moise Seligman, Jr., a Little Rock businessman and civic leader, in the early 1970s. Seligman Junior has an interesting professional background. After college he served in World War II, entering as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Army. He served as a General's aide in northern Africa and upon leaving the service had obtained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He continued to serve in the Army Reserves where he reached the rank of Major General, the highest rank for a reservist. He commanded the 122nd ARCOM, which included Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, and Mississippi during the Vietnam War. He was also President of the Arkansas Army Reserves and retired after 40 years of service.<sup>21</sup> Among his many accomplishments, Seligman also served on the Greater Little Rock Chamber of Commerce, the Wilbur Mills Highway Commission, and was part of the planning commission for I-630. His service on the commission deemed fortunate for the fate of the Ross Building. Although the first mile of I-630 was completed by 1969, the remaining seven miles were not completed until 1985 because of resistance from the local community.<sup>22</sup> The resistance did not stop the construction of the new highway but did influence key decisions reflected in I-630's alternate path. The original plans for the highway showed it going right through the property at 700 S. Schiller.

His son Moise B. Seligman, III, also lived at 700 S. Schiller and did renovations to the building during the 1970s. He attended Tulane University and returned to Little Rock after graduation. Seligman redecorated the interior to make it a pleasant home and office space, where he operated an antique shop, for a while returning the building to its traditional commercial use.<sup>23</sup> For a brief time during 1978 and 1980 James H. and Maxine Rampage owned the property.

Polk, Stanley, & Saunders Ltd., an architectural firm, remodeled the building again in the 1980s for office space. Now called Polk, Stanley, Wilcox Architects, they have been in business for 40 years. This company joined Wilcox group in 2009 and at that point moved out of 700 S. Schiller. They purchased the building through an estate sale and thought the area desirable as the building was close to the interstate and the downtown area. They moved into the location in 1980 and began doing extensive interior renovations. While new walls that created individual offices went up, the most drastic change to the interior was the basement. Up until this point the basement

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Mayo, The American Grocery Store, 71.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Sanborn maps, Library of Congress, 1913, Sheet 23.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Little Rock City Directories. Little Rock: R.L. Polk & Co. Publishers, 1939.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Ruebel Funeral Home, Moise B. Seligman Jr. http://www.ruebelfuneralhome.com/obituaryindividual.php?id=654

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Darcy Atwood Baskin Pumphrey, "An Interstate Runs Through It: The Construction Of Little Rock's Interstate 630 And The Fight To Stop It," (master's thesis, Utah State University, 2013), 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Katie Barron, Interview with Joe Stanley, one of the founding members of Polk Stanly Wilcox Architects. Joe Stanley, Oral History Interview, 22 June 2018.

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was not completed and the floor was made up of dirt, but it was soon turned into office space. In 2013, Polk, Stanley, Wilcox officially sold the building to a psychiatrist's office.<sup>24</sup>

# SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPERTY

The Ross Building represents a commercial building type that was common in Little Rock during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. As neighborhoods developed throughout the city, it was common to find small commercial establishments on corners in the neighborhoods so that residents could have easy access to necessities, such as groceries, a short distance from their homes. Buildings like the Ross Building provided necessary goods and services to Little Rock residents before the automobile became ubiquitous in American culture. Although some of the small neighborhood commercial buildings still survive in Little Rock's urban neighborhoods, they are not nearly as common as they once were. The Ross Building is likely one of the oldest of the type that exists in the city, and it is also a relatively elaborate example. The use of the stone for part of the building's construction is unusual on this building type in the city, and it represents what was likely a more expensive option than constructing the entire building out of brick.

Due to its importance in the commercial history of Little Rock, the Ross Building is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A**, with **local significance**. In addition, the Ross Building is also being nominated under **Criterion C**, with **local significance**, as an excellent example of a late 19<sup>th</sup> century commercial block, and as one of the last remaining structures of this kind around the Arkansas State Capitol.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

- Allen, W. F. *Travelers ' Official Railway Guide*. New York, NY: The National Railway Publication Company, Jan. 1895.
- Baker, William D. "Historic Railroad Depots of Arkansas, 1840–1970." Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. https://www.arkansaspreservation.com/\_literature\_133238/Historic\_Railroad\_Depots\_of \_Arkansas,\_1870-1940 (accessed May 23, 2018).
- Becknell, James C. "MoPac Station." National Register of Historic Places nomination form. On file at Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, Arkansas. http://www.arkansaspreservation.com/National-Register-Listings/PDF/PU3098.nr.pdf (Accessed August 8, 2018).

Bell, James W., "Little Rock (Pulaski County)," Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Katie Barron, Interview with Joe Stanley, one of the founding members of Polk Stanly Wilcox Architects. Joe Stanley, Oral History Interview, 22 June 2018.

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#### **Primary Source Materials:**

- Barron, Katie. Interview with Joe Stanley, one of the founding members of Polk Stanly Wilcox Architects. Joe Stanley. Oral History Interview. 22 June 2018.
- Clifton Hull Papers. Butler Center for Arkansas Studies. Central Arkansas Library

System, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Pulaski County, Arkansas County and State

Little Rock City Directories. Little Rock: R.L. Polk & Co. Publishers.

Quapaw Quarter Association Records. Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Little Rock, Arkansas.

# **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:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- \_\_\_\_\_ Federal agency
- \_\_\_\_ Local government
- \_\_\_\_\_ University
- \_\_\_\_ Other
  - Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): PU9956

#### **10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property \_\_\_\_0.14 acre\_\_\_\_

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:

| Ross Building                                    |                 | Pulaski County, Arkansas |
|--|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Name of Property<br>3. Latitude:                 | Longitude:      | County and State         |
| 4. Latitude:                                     | Longitude:      |                          |
| Or<br>UTM References<br>Datum (indicated on USGS | map):           |                          |
| NAD 1927 or                                      | x NAD 1983      |                          |
| 1. Zone: 15                                      | Easting: 564402 | Northing: 3844937        |
| 2. Zone:   | Easting:        | Northing:                |
| 3. Zone:   | Easting:        | Northing:                |
| 4. Zone:   | Easting :       | Northing:                |

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

Parcel #34L0460001900. Lot 12 of Block 7 of the Faust Addition to the City of Little Rock.

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

This parcel contains all of the land historically associated with the property.

# **11. Form Prepared By**

| name/title: <u>Katie Barron, Intern, Capitol Zoning District Commission, edited by Ralph S.</u> |        |    |                 |  |  |
|---|--------|----|-----------------|--|--|
| Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator  |        |    |                 |  |  |
| organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  |        |    |                 |  |  |
| street & number: <u>1100 North Street</u>   |        |    |                 |  |  |
| city or town: Little Rock   | state: | AR | zip code: 72201 |  |  |
| e-mail: ralph.wilcox@arkansas.gov   |        |    |                 |  |  |
| telephone: (501) 324-9787   |        |    |                 |  |  |
| date:_September 1, 2018   |        |    |                 |  |  |

Pulaski County, Arkansas County and State

#### Ross Building Name of Property

# **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.)

# 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 doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

# Photo Log

Name of Property: Ross Building

City or Vicinity: Little Rock

County: Pulaski County

State: Arkansas

Photographer: Ralph S. Wilcox

Date Photographed: September 11, 2018

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

1 of 11. East Façade, looking West.

2 of 11. East facade, looking South.

- 3 of 11. East facade looking North.
- 4 of 11. North Façade, looking South.

#### Ross Building Name of Property

5 of 11. North façade, looking East.

6 of 11. Window detail on North façade, looking South.

- 7 of 11. North façade looking South.
- 8 of 11. South façade, looking North.
- 9 of 11. South façade, looking North.
- 10 of 11. West façade, looking East.

# 11 of 11. Window detail on West Façade, looking southeast.

Ross Building Name of Property



Ross Building Name of Property



Ross Building Name of Property



Ross Building Name of Property



Ross Building Name of Property



Sections 9-end page 24

Ross Building Name of Property



Ross Building Name of Property



#### Ross Building Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas County and State









#### Ross Building Name of Property





|-----|

**Ross Building** 

Little Rock, Pulaski County, AR

15 564402E 3844937N

# $\uparrow$

North



|-----|

Ross Building

Little Rock, Pulaski County, AR

15 564402E 3844937N

# $\uparrow$

North























#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

| Requested Action:             | Nomination            |                            |  |  |  |  |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Property Name:                | Ross Building         |                            |  |  |  |  |
| Multiple Name:                |                       |                            |  |  |  |  |
| State & County:               | ARKANSAS, Pulaski     |                            |  |  |  |  |
| Date Rece<br>12/10/20         |                       |                            | y: Date of 45th Day: Date of Weekly List:<br>1/24/2019 |  |  |  |
| Reference number:             | SG100003334           |                            |  |  |  |  |
| Nominator:                    | Other Agency, SHPO    | S                          |  |  |  |  |
| Reason For Review             |                       |                            |  |  |  |  |
| Appea                         | P                     | PDIL                       | Text/Data Issue  |  |  |  |
| SHPO                          | Request               | Landscape                  | Photo  |  |  |  |
| Waive                         | r                     | National                   | Map/Boundary   |  |  |  |
| Resub                         | mission               | _ Mobile Resource          | Period   |  |  |  |
| Other                         |                       | TCP<br><u>X</u> CLG        | Less than 50 years                                     |  |  |  |
| X Accept                      | Return                | Reject1                    | /24/2019 Date  |  |  |  |
| Abstract/Summary<br>Comments: | Automatic listing due | to Federal Government shut | down   |  |  |  |
| Recommendation/<br>Criteria   | Accept / A & C        |                            |  |  |  |  |
| Reviewer Jim Ga               | abbert                | Discipli                   | ne Historian   |  |  |  |
| Telephone (202)3              | 54-2275               | Date                       | 1-28-2019  |  |  |  |
| DOCUMENTATION                 | I: see attached com   | ments : No see attached    | d SLR : No   |  |  |  |

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



#### DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

723 West Markham Street Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-1334 Phone: (501) 371-4790 Fax:(501) 399-3435 www.littlerock.gov

### CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION REVIEW

Name and Address of property: Ross Building, 700 S Schiller, Little Rock, AR 72201

Name of Owner: Gallifreyan Holdings LLC

Project Sponsor: Ralph Wilcox, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

CLG Name: City of Little Rock, Arkansas

Date of Public Hearing by CLG: November 5, 2018

### **Applicable Criteria:**

✓ Criterion A (Historic Events)

\_\_\_\_ Criterion B (Important Person)

Criterion C (Architecture)

Criterion D (Archaeological)

The Little Rock Historic District Commission hereby recommends the above stated property for nomination.

Attest: Chair

5.7018

Date

Secretary/Staff



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



ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM



1100 North Street Little Rock, AR 72201

(501) 324-9880 fax: (501) 324-9184

info@arkansaspreservation.org www.arkansaspreservation.com

An Equal Opportunity Employer

December 5, 2018

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: Ross 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 Ross 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 Ralph S. Wilcox of my staff at (501) 324-9787. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely

Stacy Hurst State Historic Preservation Officer

SH:rsw

Enclosure