

PH 0046876

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Arkansas	
COUNTY: Pulaski	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.7.03-0011	DATE 7/28/70

1. NAME

COMMON:
~~Old Arsenal - Museum of Science and Natural History~~

AND/OR HISTORIC:
U. S. Arsenal Building

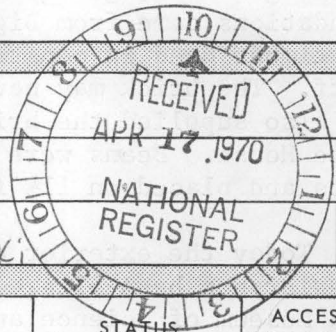
2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
MacArthur Park - Ninth at Commerce

CITY OR TOWN:
Little Rock

STATE:
Arkansas

CODE: 03 COUNTY: Pulaski CODE: 119



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
City of Little Rock

STREET AND NUMBER:
City Hall

CITY OR TOWN:
Little Rock

STATE:
Arkansas

CODE:
03

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Pulaski County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Little Rock

STATE:
Arkansas

CODE:
03

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY:
1934 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Division of Fine Arts, Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
District of Columbia

CODE:
08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:
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DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7/29/70

PH 004822

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Arsenal in City Park is a two-story brick building with two wings flanking a central tower. All of the stone used in the foundations came from Big Rock, north of the Arkansas River, and all the timber used in construction was cut and hauled from around Pine Bluff. The brick may have been made in the brickyard of Thomas Thorn, who also supplied the brick that was used in constructing the Old State House. Beams were 14" X 14", joined with thick iron plates and bolts and placed on 11½ foot centers.

Today the exterior of the building is completely rebuilt. The interior has been altered only slightly to accommodate its present use as a Museum of Science and Natural History.



Note: The use of the word "rebuilt" was perhaps misleading, but substantially correct; at least as it applies to the wooden verandas and stairways. The basic brick and masonry structure remains unaltered, while the wooden appurtenances have been restored to their pre-1900 appearance. See attached Continuation Sheets for more detailed description.

jep

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Arkansas	
COUNTY Pulaski	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION CONT'D #1

APR 17 1970

The Old Arsenal is a two-story, brick, rectangular structure 122' long, 42' wide, with a full basement, and a three-story crenellated tower, octagonal in shape and 25' in diameter. The tower is located at the center of the north side of the building.

Rubble exterior walls, 3' 11" thick, rise from the foundations to the first floor level. Above this point exterior walls are brick averaging 2' 9" thick. All interior partitions are wood frame. First and second floor joists are 3"X12"s on 13" centers. First floor joists are supported by heavy wood girders supported by wood posts. The roof structure consists of heavy wood trusses spaced approximately 10" on centers, supporting 8"X10" purlins and 3"X6" rafters 16" on centers, and 3"X4" ceiling rafters 16" on centers.

A wood veranda runs the full length of the first floor on the south side, the roof being supported by wood columns spaced approximately 17' on centers. A two-story veranda runs along the north side from the ends of the building, terminating at the octagonal tower in the center of the structure. Lintels over narrow windows are limestone. Those over wide windows are wood.

The stone of the foundations is thought to have come from Big Rock, north of the Arkansas River. All timber used in the construction came from near Pine Bluff. The brick is believed to have been made in the brickyard of Thomas Thorn, who also supplied the brick that was used in the construction of the Old State House.

The building is in excellent condition, having recently undergone an exterior renovation. While the basic brick structure has remained unaltered over the years, there have been many changes in the wooden verandas and exterior stairways. It is entirely possible that the building was originally built without verandas. An 1863 Harper's engraving shows the rear of the arsenal and no veranda exists at that time. Existing photographs of the building prior to 1900, however, show the verandas existing on the front of the building in much the same manner as they are today. Photographs and measured drawings made during the 1935 Historic American Buildings Survey show the two verandas, but the second floor veranda was without a roof at that time. The present restoration conforms to the pre-1900 appearance.

As previously noted, virtually all alterations have been to the wooden, exterior portions of the building. Some balustrades have been removed from the first floor verandas and new exterior stairways to the central door of the octagonal tower have been installed in order to better channel the flow of visitors through the main entrance of the museum. The only interior changes have been the addition of some new partitions at the basement level. (See Continuation Sheet #2)

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Arkansas	
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7. DESCRIPTION CONT'D #2

Except for the octagonal tower, the building is not an unusual structure and it would be difficult to describe it as belonging to any particular style.

APR 17 1970

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1838-1840

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

There had been much talk before 1836 of establishing an arsenal within the Territory of Arkansas, but little had been done to actually get the project started.

Just after Arkansas was admitted into the Union, Governor James Sevier Conway made a plea to the War Department in which he said, "We trust that the enlightened members of that body (meaning Congress) will not forget the claims of Arkansas upon the public revenue. We are a frontier people exposed to savage invasions and are often in pressing need of assistance and protection which only the Federal government can afford."

The governor went on to point out that many Indians were constantly passing through on their way to lands further west. The War Department responded and appropriated the sum of \$14,000 for an arsenal to be built at Little Rock. They then sent Lieutenant F. L. Jones of Army to select the site. The site which he chose is the same which today makes up MacArthur Park.

The next two years were spent drawing up the agreements for the building supplies. Then in 1838 all was ready to begin. Mr. John Warmley Walker, a government employee, was sent from Baton Rouge, where he was supervising the building of an arsenal there, to Little Rock to serve as supervisor and master builder for the job here. He liked Arkansas so well that, after completion of the Arsenal, he decided to make his home here. According to the 1850 Census, three of his children were born on Arkansas soil.

From the time of the Arsenal's completion in 1840, until the outbreak of the Civil War, little happened to disturb the regimented life of the post. Then came the frantic months before the outbreak of the war. The secession movement was growing. Several states had already seceded and in Arkansas the sentiment was gaining ground. In November of 1860 the Second United States Artillery was transferred to Little Rock from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, with Captain James Totten in command.

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

American Guide Series, Arkansas, A Guide to the State, New York: Hastings House, 1941.

Arkansas State Gazette, February 16, 1861

Albaugh, William A, III, and Simmons, Edward N., Confederate Arms, Harrisburg, Pa.,: Stackpole Company, 1957.

(See Continuation Sheet)

1-13
no
47m

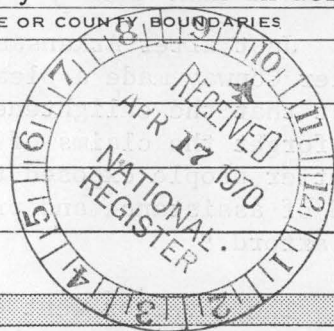
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES													
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE											
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds									
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	34	°	44	'	18	"	92	°	15	'	45	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"												
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"												
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"												

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Building only - Less than an acre**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Jack E. Porter, Administrator, Historic Preservation Program**

ORGANIZATION: **Arkansas Planning Commission** DATE: **12/8/69**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Game and Fish Building**

CITY OR TOWN: **Little Rock** STATE: **Arkansas** CODE: **03**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

National State Local

Name: John M. Peterson
John M. Peterson

Title: Executive Director
Arkansas Planning Commission

Date: 4/9/70

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

Ernest Allen Connolly
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

JUL 28 1970

Date _____

ATTEST: William J. Shultz
Keeper of The National Register

JUL 11 1970

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)



STATE	Arkansas	
COUNTY	Pulaski	
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8. SIGNIFICANCE CONT'D

With the secession of South Carolina, December 20, 1860, Arkansas took steps to secure the Arsenal. On February 8, 1861, Captain Totten surrendered the Arsenal, intact, to Henry M. Rector, Governor of Arkansas. The land and the buildings of the arsenal were valued at \$100,000 and contained machinery for the repair of arms, 10,000 stand of arms, ammunition and several cannon.

On the 6th and 7th of March, 1862, Union forces under General Samuel Curtis defeated the Confederate forces under General Van Dorn at the Battle of Pea Ridge. This defeat led Van Dorn to withdraw across the Mississippi River in April of 1862. Van Dorn stripped Arkansas of men and military supplies and even removed machinery from the arsenal.

In the latter part of May, 1862, Major General Thomas C. Hindman took command of the military situation in Arkansas. The arsenal had never been adequately utilized. The machinery for the manufacture of ammunition had been operative from the time of the seizure of the arsenal in February of 1861, until its removal by Van Dorn; and Confederate troops, routed through Little Rock had used the machinery to manufacture cartridges for themselves. Hindman endeavored to make the arsenal operative. He secured materials for making ammunition from the citizens of Little Rock by means of donations, purchases and impressments. He re-established a laboratory at the arsenal to manufacture ammunition. He employed or conscripted gunsmiths, impressed or purchased tools and began to utilize the shops of the arsenal to repair damaged guns. In August of 1862, the Little Rock Arsenal became an official Confederate Ordnance Station. The arsenal was built up and did considerable manufacture of ammunition and repair of small arms. With the fall of Little Rock to the Union forces on September 10, 1863, the Confederates were forced to evacuate the arsenal and to move their operations to Arkadelphia and later to Tyler, Texas. The arsenal remained in Union hands until the end of the war.

After the Civil War the arsenal settled into the routine life of a peacetime military post. The only truly significant event that occurred at the post was the birth of Douglas MacArthur on January 26, 1880. On April 23, 1892, the arsenal and grounds were traded by the Federal government for 1000 acres of ground, north of the Arkansas River, which was owned by the citizens of Little Rock. The arsenal was turned over to the city with the stipulation that the grounds be "forever exclusively devoted to the uses and purposes of a public park."

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Arkansas	
COUNTY Pulaski	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70-7-03-0011	DATE 7/28/70

(Number all entries)

9. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES CONT'D

Eison, James, "The Arsenal in Little Rock," The Pulaski County Historical Society Review, Vol. XVI, No. 2, (June 1968).

National Park Service, Historic American Buildings Survey Catalog, Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1941.

Thomas, David Y., Arkansas in War and Reconstruction, 1861 - 1874, Little Rock: United Daughters of the Confederacy, 1926.

Tunnard, William H., A Southern Record, The History of the Third Regiment, Louisiana Infantry, Baton Rouge: Printed for the Author, 1866.

War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Washington: 1880 -1901, Series I, Vols. I, XIII.



8/6/70

Plagci Co.
U.S. ARSENAL BLD 70000127
Old Arsenal
Ark.
SIGN O

RECEIPT

DATE OF RECEIPT	VRS	NO	NUMBER	REG. NUMBER
4/17/70	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		1	70-7-03-40011
DATA PAGE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
PHOTO (S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
PHOTO DESCRIPTION (S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
MAP (S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		1	
MAP DESCRIPTIONS (S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
LOGGED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
ACKNOWLEDGE 4/20/70	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Resubmitted 6/22/70			4/20/70 MB	

unaltered - exterior completely rebuilt.

OK
6/24/70
MB

REVIEW

REVIEWER	COMMENTS	DATE
HISTORIAN	Good bldg; perhaps clarification of word rebuilt needed as suggested above	4/21/70 Dambler
HISTORIAN	Send back if you want a better description	OK Levy 6/29/70
ARCHITECT	Send back with form letter for better description. No mention made of style characteristics. Also clarify word "rebuilt".	OK Chambers 4/22/70 6/29/70
____ Chief Architect	____ Chief Archeologist	____ Chief Historian

Keeper COMMENTS

Murtagh
7/11/70

ENTRY

CHIEF, OAHP COMMENTS

7/28/70



EDITORIAL PROCESSING COMMENTS
HABS

agree with architects.
OK 7/1/70
ED

EDITOR
Federal Register Entry
Annual Edition Entry
Date 9/1/70

FILE	FILE	FILE	WORKING NUMBER
8/3/70			4-17-70-5

Agree with G+C.
MA
5/19/70

returned 5/27/70 for better description
MB
Cleared 6/29/70 2nd time



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE

Arkansas

COUNTY

Pulaski

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

70-7-03-00011

7/28/70

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Old Arsenal - Museum of Science and Natural History

AND/OR HISTORIC: U.S. Arsenal Building

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

MacArthur Park, Ninth at Commerce

CITY OR TOWN:

Little Rock

STATE:

Arkansas

CODE

03

COUNTY:

Pulaski

CODE

119

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Arkansas Publicity and Parks Commission

DATE OF PHOTO:

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Arkansas Publicity and Parks Commission

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Front view of Old Arsenal



"CREDIT LINE WILL BE APPRECIATED"

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

front view of building

SUBJECT:

72201

149 STATE CAPITOL, LITTLE ROCK

PUBLICITY DIVISION ARKANSAS PUBLICITY AND PARKS COMMISSION

FROM:

DATE:

PRESS INFORMATION . . .

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Arkansas	
COUNTY Pulaski	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70-7.03-00011	DATE 7/25/70

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Old Arsenal - Museum of Science and Natural History
AND/OR HISTORIC: U.S. Arsenal Building

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
MacArthur Park, Ninth at Commerce

CITY OR TOWN:
Little Rock

STATE:
Arkansas

CODE
03

COUNTY:
Pulaski

CODE
119

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:
U.S.G.S. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ " Quadrangle, "Little Rock"

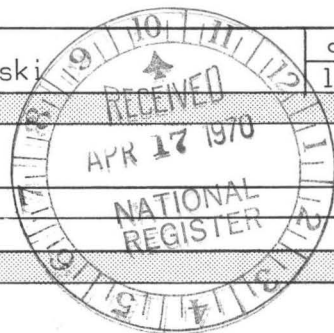
SCALE: 1:24,000

DATE: 1961

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.



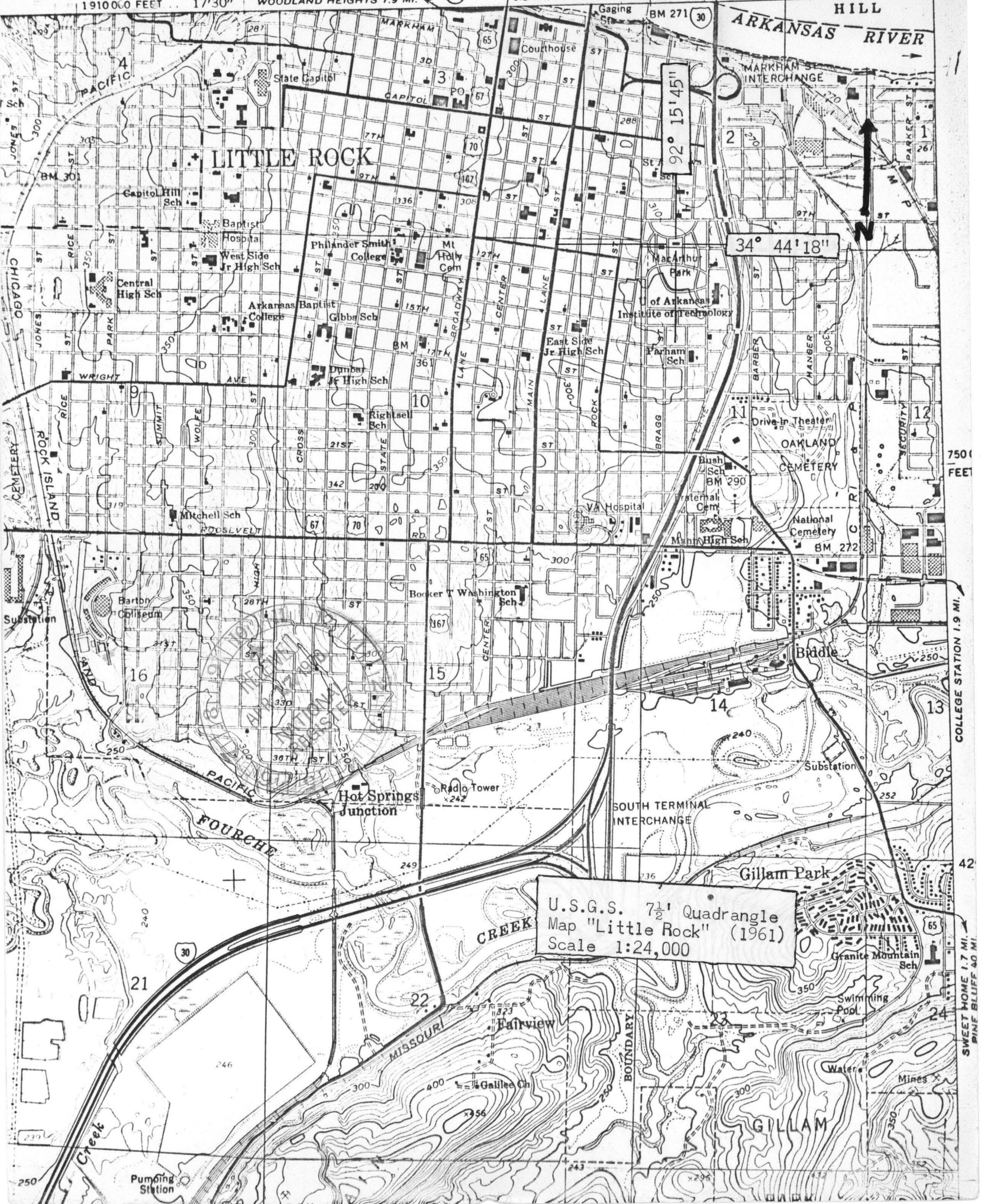
TY

NEV 4 ALEXANDER 15' QUADRANGLE
1.7 MI. TO NORTH TERMINAL INTERCHANGE

92°15' 34"

1910000 FEET 17'30" IVESSVILLE 10 MI. WOODLAND HEIGHTS 7.9 MI.

CONWAY 32 MI. (VIA U.S. 65) 0.5 MI. TO JUNC. U.S. 65



U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' Quadrangle
Map "Little Rock" (1961)
Scale 1:24,000

7501 FEET

COLLEGE STATION 1.9 MI.

SWEET HOME 1.7 MI. PINE BLUFF 40 MI.

an
Pulaski Co, Ark
Gamble
7/28/70

H30-HR

JUL 28 1970

Dr. George M. Reynolds
Chairman
State Review Committee
Arkansas History Commission
Old State House
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Dr. Reynolds:

We are pleased to inform you that the Old Arsenal in Pulaski County, Arkansas, has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Senators J. W. Fulbright and John L. McClellan and Representative Wilbur D. Mills have also been notified. Please withhold any publicity on this until you have received a carbon copy of the Congressional correspondence.

Sincerely yours,

/S/ Ernest Allen Connally

Ernest Allen Connally
Chief, Office of Archeology
and Historic Preservation

JUL 28 1970

Entered in the National Register _____

cc:
HR

R.Gamble:dYW

7/24/70

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

Gamble
7/25/70
Annally 7-28
Eaton 8/30/70

830-HR

JUL 31 1970

Hon. J. W. Fulbright
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Fulbright:

We are pleased to inform you that the Old Arsenal in Pulaski County, Arkansas, has been nominated by the officer appointed by the Governor for the implementation of the National Historic Preservation Program in Arkansas and has been entered into the National Register of Historic Places. Senator John L. McClellan and Representative Wilbur D. Mills have also been provided with this information. By copy of this letter, the State Liaison Officer, Dr. George M. Reynolds, Chairman, State Review Committee, Arkansas History Commission, Old State House, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201, has likewise been notified. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) GEORGE B. HARTZOG, JR.

Director

Enclosure

JUL 28 1970

Entered in the National Register

cc:

Dr. George M. Reynolds, Chairman, State Review Committee, Arkansas History Commission, Old State House, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
Duplicate letters sent to:
Hon. John L. McClellan
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.
Hon. Wilbur D. Mills
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

7/27/70

R. Gamble:dyw

cc: Director, Southeast Region
LL: Mr. Melvin
T
HR