

PH 0046884

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

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 DATE	MAY 7 1973

#### 1. NAME

COMMON:  
OLD POST OFFICE BUILDING AND CUSTOM HOUSE

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
The Government Building

#### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Second and Spring Streets

CITY OR TOWN:  
Little Rock

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

STATE: Arkansas      CODE: 05      COUNTY: Pulaski      CODE: 119

#### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<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
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

#### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: United States of America  
General Services Administration

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Public Buildings Service

CITY OR TOWN: Washington      STATE: D. C.      CODE: 11

#### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Little Rock      STATE: Arkansas      CODE:

#### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

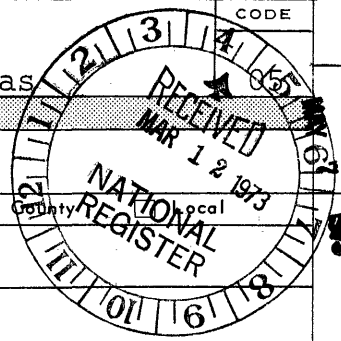
DATE OF SURVEY: 1972       Federal       State       County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Arkansas History Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:  
300 West Markham

CITY OR TOWN: Little Rock      STATE: Arkansas      CODE: 05

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Post Office built of sandstone on a pink Indiana granite base consists of a center pavillion three bays wide and four-storeys in height with the ground floor walls executed in rusticated stone, and capped by a bracketed entablature with a relatively low pitched hip roof having a flat top surmounted by wrought iron cresting. This center section has four chimneys, two on either side adjacent to the two three-storey two-bay wings, one on either side of the main pavillion. These two wings are capped with a dentillated entablature plus a matching hip roof with a flat center section again surrounded by wrought iron cresting. These two wings have a projecting pediment bay in the center of either end of the building with one chimney on either side of this pediment in each wing for a total of four additional chimneys. All of the chimneys are executed in sandstone with complete cornice-type caps.

When first built the above was the complete structure, however, a few years later two additional one-storey two-bay wings were added to the building one on either end adjacent to the first two wings and projecting an equal distance on either side also equal to the distance the original two wings projected. These one-storey wings are executed in matching rusticated stone with the pink granite foundation and the other detailing duplicating perfectly the design of the lower floor of the original building. The one-storey wings, however, are flat roofed and capped with a parapet wall which matches the height of the window sills on the second floor of the original building.

All first floor openings have segmental arch lintels executed in rusticated stone. The second and third-storey windows are complete with sills and architraves in entablature fashion complete with cornice.

Interior woodwork was and for the most part still is natural finished with picture frame style architraves on doors and windows. The main staircase is U-shaped with an elaborate bronze metal balustrade with a wood handrail. The stair treads and risers are also metal. The floors on the first floor are executed in marble and terrazzo. All hardware and hinges are of heavy brass and bronze.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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

(Continuation Sheet)

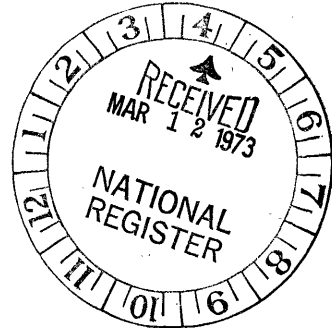
STATE Arkansas	
COUNTY Pulaski	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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(Number all entries)

7. Description Continued:

The building has a full basement under the original, as well as under the slightly later one-storey wings. The center pavillion projects to the rear three bays beyond the two side wings. Quality materials and construction are apparent in every detail of the building inside and out.

It is and was undoubtedly the most solidly constructed building of its vintage in the City of Little Rock. The fact that it has survived in reasonably good condition attests to the original quality of the construction. The architecture is basically very classical in appearance, but of Renaissance Classical or Italianate Renaissance style. Although the building has some Victorian design in the wrought iron cresting and the hardware and a few other details, this does not alter its basically symmetrical and very elegant proportions.



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1881

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

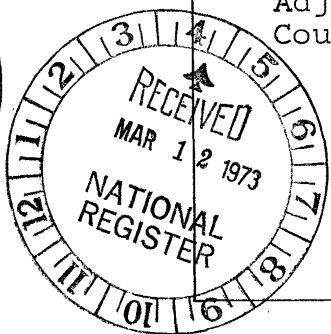
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in 1881, the Old Post Office Building was designed to serve the Little Rock area as a Post Office, Federal Courthouse, and Custom House. The entire first or main floor was used by the Post Office Department. The second floor was used by various governmental offices which included the Collector of Internal Revenue, the Land Receiver, the Office of the Federal District Judge and the U.S. District Attorney. The third and fourth floors were devoted largely to the use of the United States District Court with additional rooms for judges, juries, and the Office of the United States Marshall. This building ceased to be used as a post office in 1932 when the present post office building was built. Today the Old Post Office building serves as the Armed Forces Examining and Entrance Station.

Access to the second and third floors was by stairs or the use of an extremely elaborate elevator in the east end of the building. The elevator, which blends perfectly with the Italianate Renaissance character of the building boasts an intricate wrought iron cage or passenger compartment. This elevator was one of the very first elevators erected in Arkansas and the oldest elevator in continuous use in the State.

It is significant to note that the Old Post Office is located in the center of a group of public buildings which, for this region, represent an unusual variety of architectural styles. One block away is the Greek Revival First State Capitol, a National Register property. Adjacent to the Old Post Office is the Victorian Pulaski County Courthouse with its Classical Revival annex.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



HB  
15 / 3842110

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

The City of Little Rock, Guide to the City of Roses for Visitors and Citizens.  
Little Rock: Guide Publishing Company, 1890.

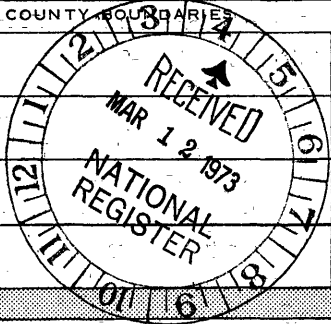
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		34 44 51.5	92 16 24	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: approx. 1.00

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING 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: Gene Richardson, Research Historian

ORGANIZATION: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program DATE: November 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: 1023 West Third

CITY OR TOWN: Little Rock STATE: Arkansas CODE: 05

**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

W.E. Henderson  
Name: William E. Henderson

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: March 7, 1973

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

Robert M. Utley  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/7/73

ATTEST: [Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 5 2 73

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8. Significance Continued.

In the past ten years several proposals have been made concerning the ultimate desposition of this building, including demolition, and even presenting the citizens of Little Rock with another half city block of flat black asphalt for parking.

While the primary significance of the Old Post Office lies in its architecture and in the rarity of the Italianate Renaissance Architectural style, in Arkansas, it is widely accepted as an important landmark in the central business district of Little Rock.

