

INDIVIDUAL DATA SHEET

Property Name Bank of Gentry Property Owner Nina Steele
 Location Main Street, Gentry Address P. O. box 38
 Construction Date 1904 Survey No. 2917 Gentry, AR 72734

DESCRIPTION

The Bank of Gentry Building is located on Main Street in a continuous row of attached commercial structures. It predates the surrounding structures, which is obvious from the amount and detail of the store front. The facade design is based on a triumphal arc, with a large arch in the center and smaller arches to each side. One of the smaller arches functions as the entrance. The arches are supported by pilasters with ionic capitals. Beneath the center of each small arch is a sculptural head and above each is a rectangular panel created by the brickwork. The larger central arch has an ornamental keystone with the date of construction and sculptural panel below. The cornice is created by a string-course, brick corbelling and limestone capping. The final ornament is the sculpted heads and plain blocks that are used as decoration across the top.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Criterion: C Area of significance: Architecture

The State Bank of Gentry was established in 1901 and had the building constructed in 1904. In 1911 the bank failed and was reopened as the Citizens Bank of Gentry. However, its significance is primarily architectural. It stands out in the central block of Main Street as the dominant structure because of its highly decorative details.

The sculptures described above have added significance because not only were they crafted locally, but the artist was L.H. Moore, the president and founder of the bank, who was also an amateur sculptor. The man and woman beneath the smaller arches represent the Arkansas Traveler and his wife, both original Moore works. The other figures are copies of mythological characters, except the woman at the top center, who is said to be Moore's wife. The fine detailing of the Bank of Gentry makes it a unique example of turn-of-the-century commercial architecture in small town Arkansas.

Acreage less than 1 acre

Verbal Boundary Description Lot 9, Block 21, Original Town

Quadrangle Name Gentry, Ark. Quadrangle Scale 1:24000

UTM Reference: Zone 15 Easting 366810 Northing 4014450

