

NR 10-16-86

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Arkansas Bank & Trust Company

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 103 Walnut Street N/A not for publication

city, town Newport N/A vicinity of

state Arkansas code 05 county Jackson code 067

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name John Minor Co., Inc.

street & number 103 Walnut Street (Corner of Front Street & Walnut Street)

city, town Newport N/A vicinity of state Arkansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jackson Co. Courthouse

street & number

city, town Newport state Arkansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

## Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

## Check one

unaltered  
 altered

## Check one

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

### SUMMARY

Constructed in 1916, the Arkansas Bank & Trust Company sits on the corner of Front and Walnut Streets facing northwest towards the White River and the Missouri-Pacific Railroad. Designed by the prominent architectural firm of Mann & Stern of Little Rock, the rectangular, two-story building features the lavish adornment that characterizes the eclectic Neoclassic style. Colossal columns, an elaborate entablature, and other elaborate detailing result in an architectural form that constitutes one of the finest commercial structures in Newport.

### ELABORATION

The Arkansas Bank & Trust Company Building faces northwest on Front Street in downtown Newport's main thoroughfare and leads to offices on the second floor. A secondary entrance faces northeast along Walnut Street. This flat-roofed commercial building is finished with terra cotta on its principal elevations, while the remaining two exterior walls are of brick construction.

Two stories in height and rectangular in plan, the building's imposing character begins with the northwest facade's four symmetrically placed colossal, fluted, Roman Composite, engaged columns. Raised by twelve-inch square pedestals, two columns flank the central entrance while the remaining two nestle between corner pilasters and the facade wall.

The primary entrance on the northwest side is surrounded by bead and reel and simple water leaf molding. Flourished rosette detailing flanks the molding. Dentils and egg and dart molding rest above the doorway. Modillioned brackets support dominant entablature upon which lies a round cartouche flanked by cornucopias and topped with a shell.

Although the northeast side is approximately three times the length of the facade, it possesses only four engaged columns. Instead, the northeast side is embellished with four symmetrically placed pilasters with the remaining two flanking the central doorway. Pilaster capitals are crowned with bead and reel molding below the abacus and a small eagle with wings spread beyond the circle on which it is standing. Swags drape the area below completing the decoration.

Leaded, multi-pane, double-hung, sash windows line are found at the first story and are topped with simply detailed entablatures. The rear portion on the northeast side is divided into three small shops which are separate from the main office areas and maintain their individual front entrances. Second story windows are separated by engaged columns and pilasters. The one-over-one pane double-hung sash windows are grouped in pairs on either side of a group of three in the central portion of the facade. With the exception of one window above the northeast entrance, groups of three windows complete the ribbon. Rectangular panels centered by paterae with floral designs are placed evenly between first and second story windows. Guilloche molding wraps the structure above second story windows and is centered in each section by a paterae with a floral design.

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Continuation sheet

Item number

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The entablature begins with three decorative moldings and flat bands comprise the architrave. The bands grow wider and protrude further in their ascension. Small bead and reel molding lies under the first band, simple water leaf then enriched water leaf moldings finish the architrave. The frieze is quite wide but simply adorned only at the corners with three pateraes encircling floral designs set in rectangular patterns. The words "Arkansas Bank & Trust" were once inscribed in the frieze but were replaced by "First National Bank" when that company bought the building. Beginning at the bottom, the cornice is richly adorned with a thin bead and reel molding, enriched water leaf and prominent dentils. Modillioned brackets support the eaves which are embellished with a thin simple water leaf molding.

The roof culminates in a parapet decorated at the corners with swags centered in protruding rectangular panels. Belt courses encircle the parapet and below the panels. In the center, the wall projects and rises above the parapet line. Centered by brackets on the sides, the projection is emblazoned with an eagle with wings spread.

The interior possesses five separate offices, two of which are enclosed and each are divided by the original square columns crowned with simple acanthus leaf capitals. The ceiling is divided by wide, paneled ribs accented by a row of dentils in each section. The second floor opens from the primary entrance on Walnut Street from which the staircase leads to a large hall that runs the length of the structure. A reception area overlooks Front Street and seventeen office areas line the hallway.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1916

Builder/Architect Mann and Stern

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

### SUMMARY

The Arkansas Bank & Trust Company Building is situated on the corner of Front and Walnut Streets opposite the Missouri-Pacific Railroad Depot and the White River in downtown Newport. Newport's location on a major rail line and the area's major waterway allowed the city to become the center of commerce and trade. Exhibiting correct architectural features of the ornate Neoclassic style that deem it one of the finest commercial buildings in Newport, the structure housed the Arkansas Bank & Trust Company and First National Bank, both of which contributed to the industrial and agricultural growth of the city and the surrounding area. After a disastrous fire damaged commercial and residential structures in Newport in 1926, the Arkansas Bank & Trust Company financed the major portion of Newport's reconstruction. Also, Arkansas's first and the nation's second Farm Credit Association was founded by a young attorney who practiced on the second floor.

### ELABORATION

The building was originally constructed in 1916 to house the Arkansas Bank & Trust Company. With a warm attitude and a genuine concern for the betterment of the community, Charley Henry, bank president, extended loans and made funds available to farmers for the next crop year during the pre-depression period.

It was during this time that the ground work for organizing the National Farm Loan Association was conceived. In 1924, Wesley Bengel, a young attorney occupying a small office on the second floor of the bank building, recognized the need for a local farm credit facility in the Newport area. He organized the first farm credit association in Arkansas, the Jackson County Farm Credit Association, which was the second of its kind in the United States. Bengel made funds available to local farmers under one of the most active loan associations on record.

During the year 1926, fire caused extensive damage to both commercial and residential sections of the city. The Arkansas Bank & Trust Company Building served as headquarters in making disaster loans and financial arrangements for reconstruction.

In 1930 the Arkansas Bank & Trust Company went into a receivership and years later the building was purchased by First National Bank, which remained at the building until 1967. A fabric store occupied the building from 1967 until 1975 when John Minor Company, Inc. opened insurance and real estate offices. The Minor Company maintains occupancy of the building at this time.

Designed by Mann and Stern, the Neoclassical building adds an eloquent accent to the downtown area. The interior of the main building has been modernized only to the extent that it compliments the original design. The building is unanimously admired and considered a beautiful reminder of Newport's history.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

The Stream of History. April 1971, pp. 3-8.  
Interview with former bank president N. Campbell  
JaCo Committee, Historical Society on Cemeteries and Sites

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Newport, AR

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	5	6	5	5	4	8	1	5	3	9	4	1	3	9	1	0
Zone			Easting						Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting						Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting						Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting						Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting						Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting						Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting						Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting						Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 1, Block 5

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ms. Mildred Gregory, Edited by AHPP Staff

organization Suggin Folklore Society

date 11-1-85

street & number 324 Walnut Street

telephone (501) 523-6250

city or town Newport

state Arkansas


# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 9-12-86

For NPS use only

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

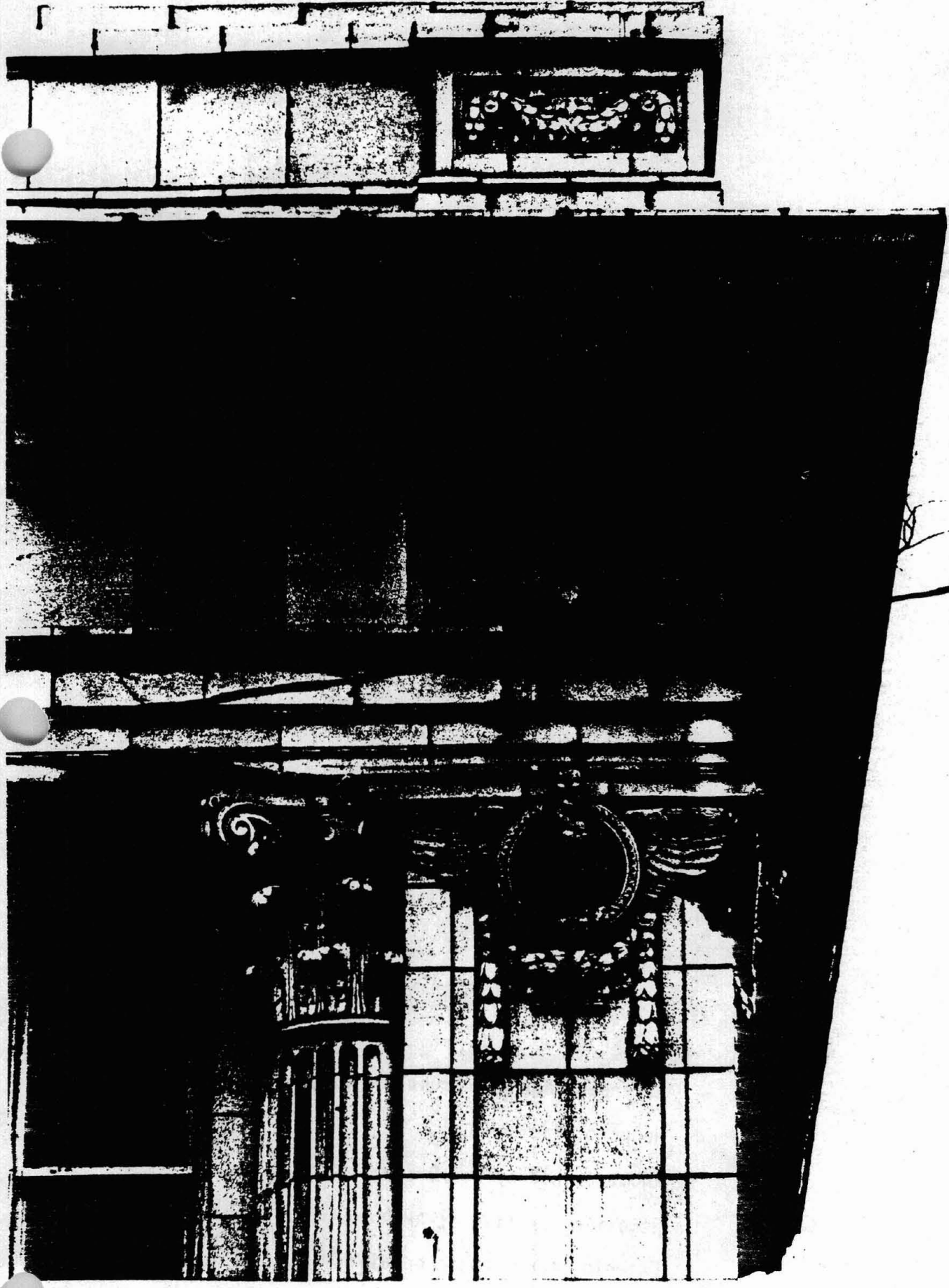
date

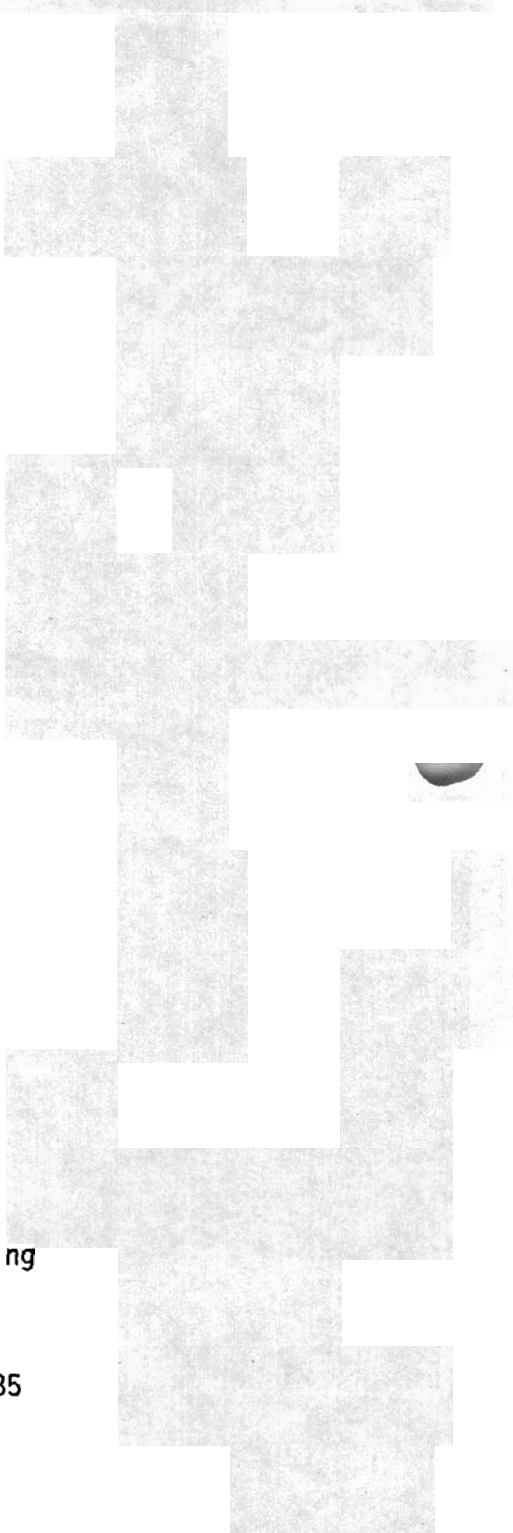
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration





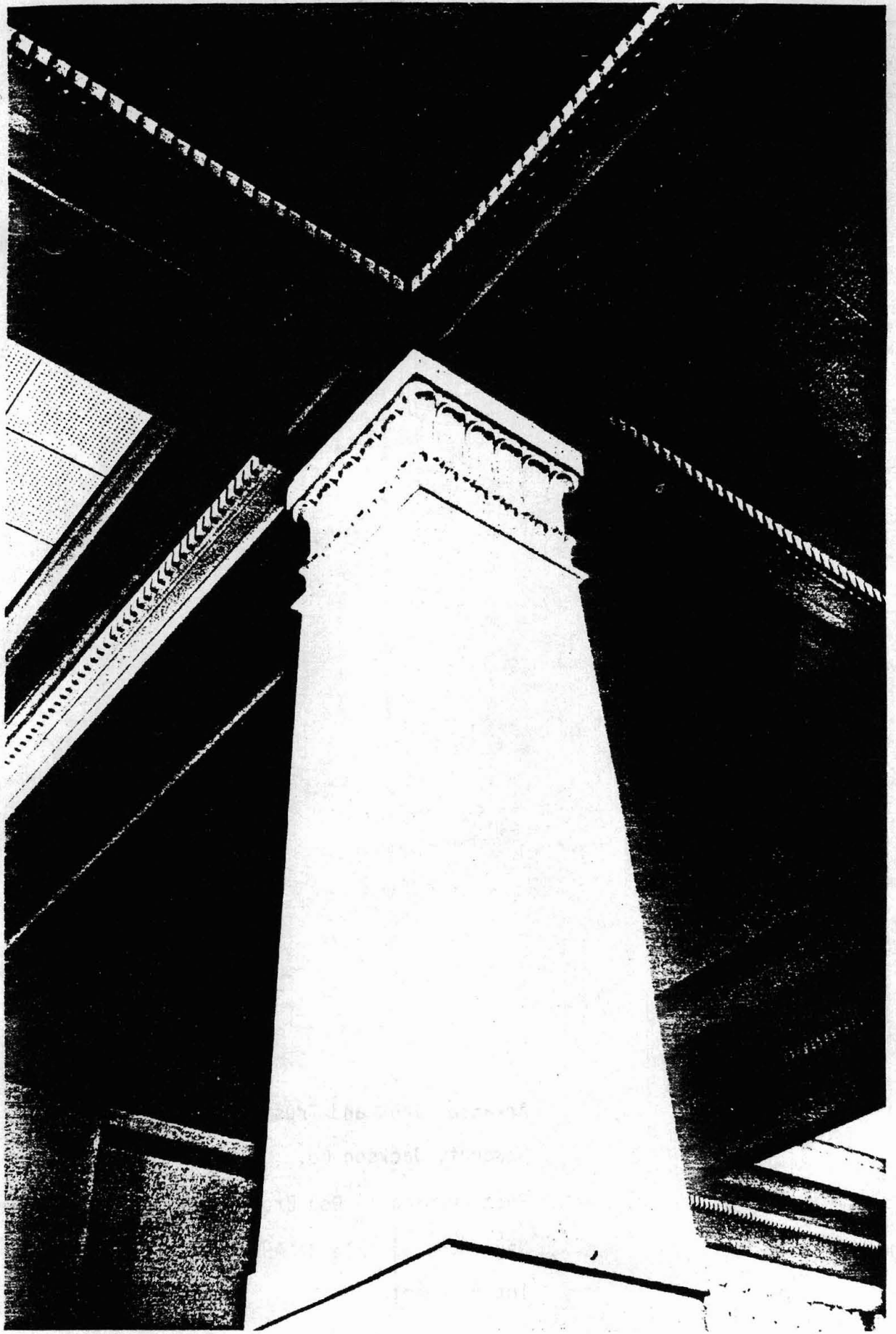
Arkansas Bank and Trust Building

Newport, Jackson Co.

Photographed by Don Brown, 1985

Negatives on file at AHPP

Exterior terra cotta detail





Arkansas Bank and Trust Building

Newport, Jackson Co.

Photographed by Don Brown, 1985

Negatives on file at AHPP

Interior detail





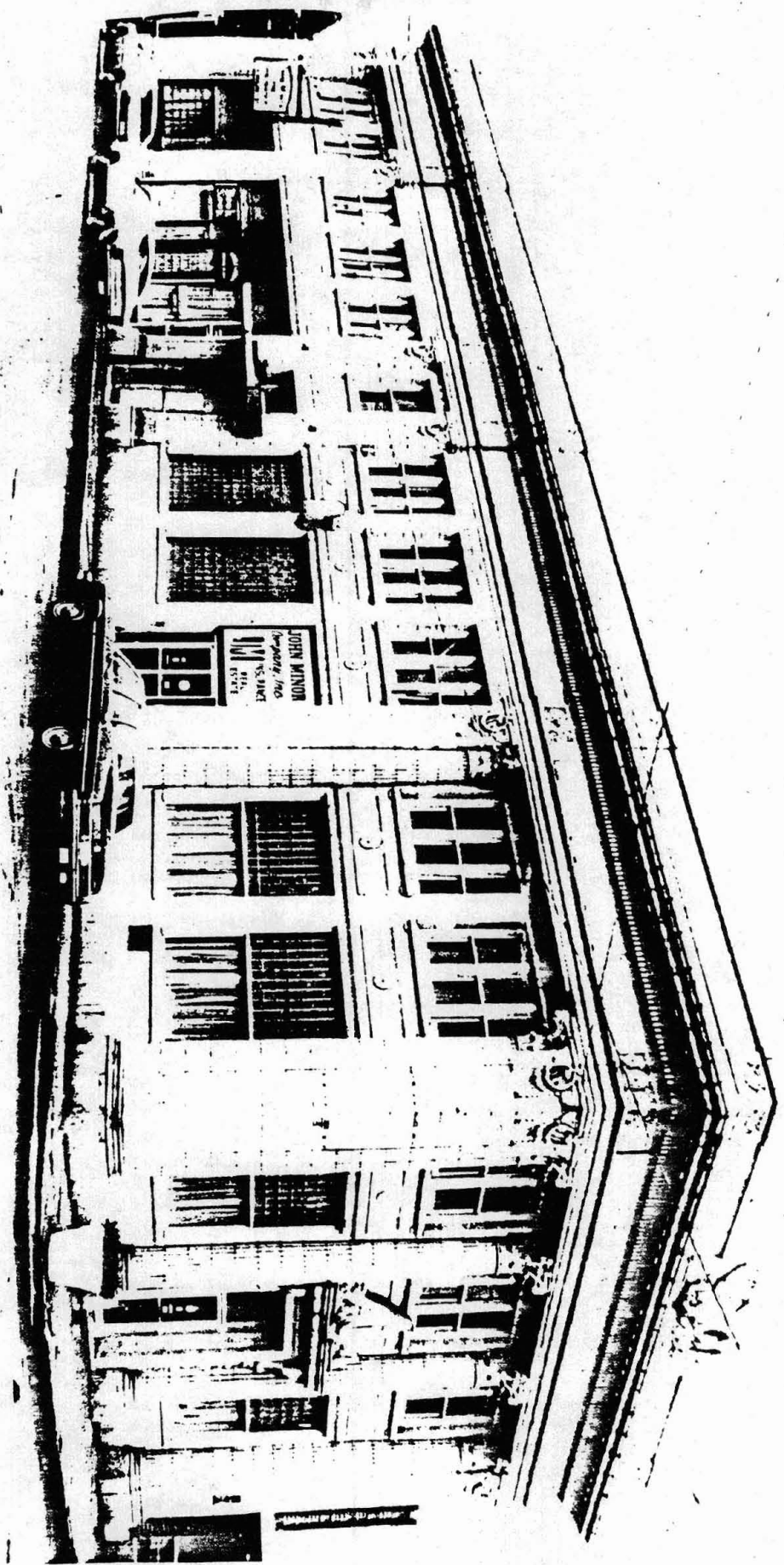
Arkansas Bank and Trust Building

Newport, Jackson Co.

Photographed by Don Brown, 1985

Negatives on file at AHPP

Front elevation (northwest)



Arkansas Bank and Trust Bldg.  
Newport, Jackson Co.  
Side elevation  
Photographed by Don Brown  
November 1985  
Negative on file at AHPP

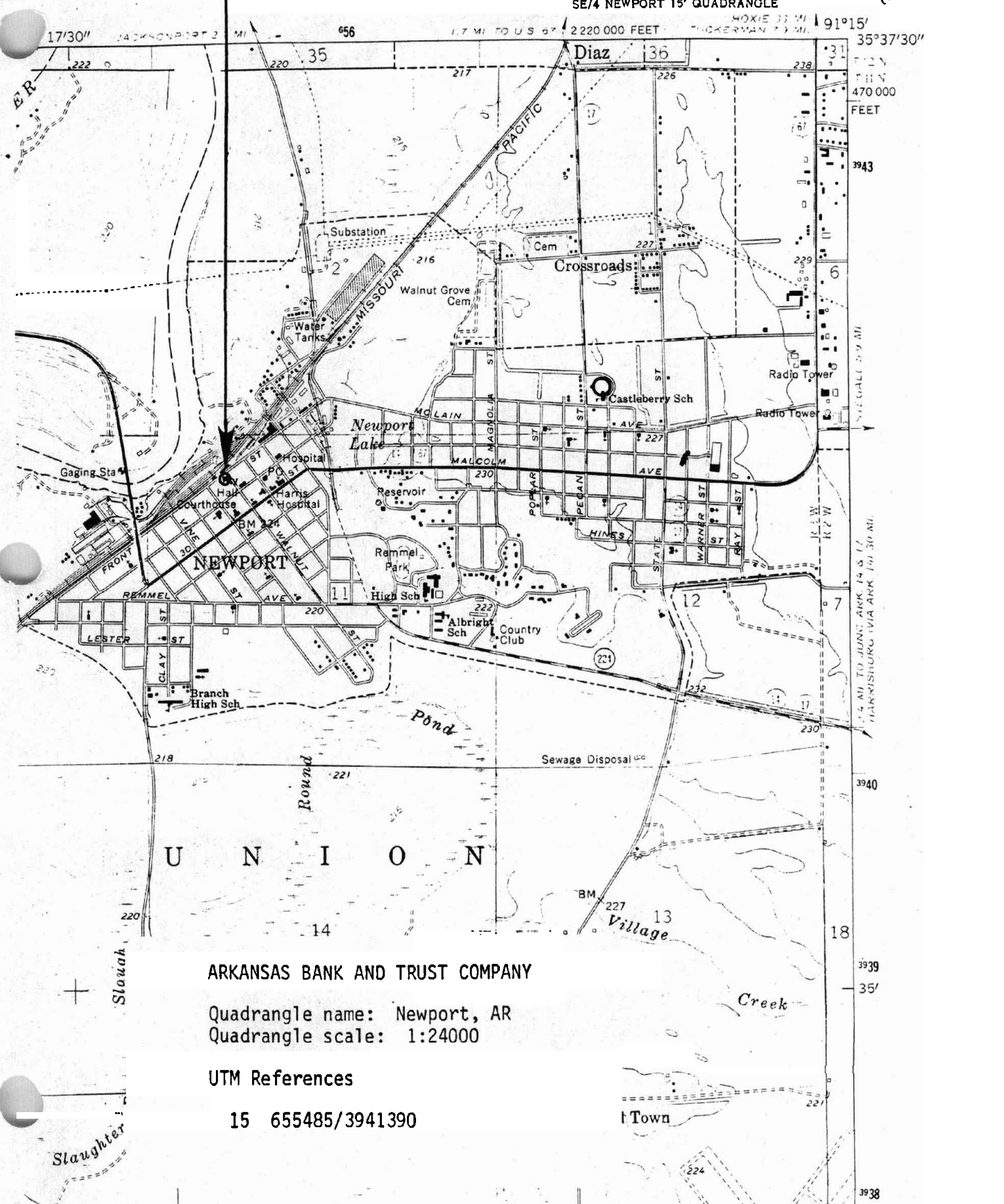
Arkansas Bank & Trust Company NEWPORT QUADRANGLE

ARKANSAS

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

SE/4 NEWPORT 15' QUADRANGLE

7555 II NW (TUCKERMAN)



ARKANSAS BANK AND TRUST COMPANY

Quadrangle name: Newport, AR  
Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

UTM References

15 655485/3941390

Slaughter

Slouch

470 000 FEET

SCALE 1:24,000

1.4 MI TO JUNG ARK 14 & 17  
TRANSPORT VIA ARK 140 30 MI

3940

3939

35'

3938