

60-84-1100-33

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NR 8-6-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

North Little Rock City Hall

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Third and Main Streets

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

North Little Rock

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Arkansas

VICINITY OF

CODE

05

COUNTY

Pulaski

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of North Little Rock

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall, Third and Main Streets

CITY, TOWN

North Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Circuit Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Pulaski County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDEAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built in 1914, North Little Rock City Hall has served as the center of government in that city for sixty-one of its seventy-one years of official existence. The two-storey building was modeled after a bank in St. Louis. Constructed on quicksand, the building is supported by a concrete hull fourteen inches thick filled with cotton bales.

North Little Rock City Hall is Neo-Classical Revival in architecture. The building is constructed entirely of non-destructable, non-deteriorating material. Used in the construction are cast stone, reinforced concrete, brick, terra cotta, steel and copper.

The exterior is of cast stone with terra cotta trim. A level roofline is bordered by a railing featuring urn-shaped balusters. The concrete roof is supported by iron joists. Fluted pilasters with Ionic capitals are found on the west and south elevations. The two-storey columns rise from square bases and feature a decorative pattern at the first storey line. Inset between the pilasters are windows grouped in three, however the middle window has been enclosed with stonework. First storey windows have transoms, while the second storey windows have decorative keystones. The main entry, located in the center of the west elevation, has scroll brackets which support a rounded arch inscribed with the date of the year in which the building was built.

A large part of the interior is constructed of imported Florentine marble, white with black veining. The floors, which are original, are vitrified tile. The dominant feature of the interior is a skylight of translucent mosaic stained glass, the larger of two skylights found in the building. It is located directly over the stairway connecting the first and second floors. According to City Clerk Jackie C. Neil, the skylights were hand-made, the panes held together by lead. The lead in the skylight is not merely a connecting medium, but is utilized by outlining the main constituents of the design. The main design is the red "C of A" (City of Argenta) in the center pane surrounded and highlighted by stained glass in bright colors of green, purple, blue and yellow. Doorplates featuring a rendering of the Arkansas State Seal on the upper portion with an inscription of "Argenta" on the door knob.

Three original large chandeliers drop from the ceiling in the lobby. These were once gold leafed, but have been painted. There are several original bronze wall light fixtures throughout the building.

Original plaster cornices, decorative in design, are found throughout the building. Also found in the lobby are squared columns of marble with a geometric patterned capital. In the center of each side of the column capital projects an ornate molding imprinted with the letters "C of A" (City of Argenta). The lobby also features ceiling beams with an unusual plaster molding.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

DATE ENTERED _____

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE one

The marble stairway is T-shaped, double flight and features an iron railing and balusters. Marble columns found on the second floor are marked by Ionic capitals. Flanking either side of the stairway on the first floor are identical doorways of bronze frame with scroll brackets supporting the doorheads. Resting above the entablature are bronze memorial plaques. Several doors throughout the building feature a pediment with scroll brackets and a terra cotta band decorating the plain rectangular door frame.

There have been no additions to North Little Rock City Hall and alterations to the basic structure have been minimal. In 1961 the City Police Department moved out of the building and a few partitions were placed in their former area to accommodate office space. A wall between the rooms on the second floor which housed the Council Chamber and the Municipal Court Room was knocked down and the one large room became the Council Chamber. In 1964 the Mayor's Suite was remodeled and enlarged. The plaster cornices and molding, the decorative plaster work on the cornices and ceiling beams, the railing and balusters on the stairs and the three large chandeliers in the lobby were originally gold-leafed and have been painted. During the administration of Mayor Casey William F. Laman (1958-1972) the original front doors, which were of wood with heavy bronze handles, were taken down and the present glass doors installed. Also during the administration of Laman, the stone enclosures were placed on the outside windows.

Still in excellent condition, North Little Rock City Hall stands as a tangible reminder of the history of the city.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|-------------|--|---|---|--|
| PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES 1914 BUILDER/ARCHITECT John L. Howard

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of North Little Rock City Hall lies in two areas. Architecturally, the Neo-Classical Revival Building is one of the finest structures in the city. Politically, the building has been the center of government in North Little Rock since 1915, and has witnessed the administrations of sixteen of the city's eighteen mayors. North Little Rock City Hall is in many ways synonymous with the history of the city.

The history of North Little Rock dates back to 1812 when the first settlement on the north bank was called DeCantillon, after an army officer who moved to the area to do a survey following the War of 1812. The Arkansas River flooded, taking the settlement with it. The new settlement was called Huntersville because of the abundance of game found in the area. Before the Civil War, a Frenchman named Burnett settled in the area and built a two-storey frame building which he called the Hotel Argenta, named for a silver mine that existed on the outskirts of town. "Argenta", the spanish term for silver-like, then replaced Huntersville as the name for the settlement.

Argenta grew rapidly with the advent of the railroad, to such an extent that in 1891, Little Rock annexed the area on the north side of the river and for twelve years, Argenta was the eighth ward of Little Rock. In 1903, William C. Faucette, a railroad engineer turned alderman, and a resident of the north side of the river, ran for Mayor of Little Rock. He had more zeal than appeal and lost, a defeat which only increased his determination to be a mayor. After his defeat, Faucette vowed to separate the two cities and to be Mayor of the one on the north side. Aided by five top lawyers in the state and Senator James P. Clarke, a bill was drafted which was introduced in the 1903 General Assembly. The bill contained a provision which allowed any municipality or part thereof, to detach itself and then attach onto any municipality within one mile. The bill received little attention and was lost in the flood of local bills as Faucette hoped it would be. The bill was introduced, passed and signed into law. On July 31, 1903, an election was held that separated the eighth ward from Little Rock and North Little Rock was incorporated as a separate city. In 1904 the first city election was held, electing William C. Faucette mayor. He envisioned a municipal building, but the newly formed city was already functioning on a tight budget. In 1906 the name of the city was changed to Argenta and in 1917 the city again officially became known as North Little Rock.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE one

In 1911, William Faucette's brother, J. P. Faucette, was elected mayor of North Little Rock and served until 1917. He was a far-sighted man who is credited with pulling North Little Rock out of debt through the investments made during his administration. J. P. Faucette set about to accomplish his brother's plan of constructing a municipal building. The location was picked out and purchased for \$8,000. At that time the land was occupied by the Dyes Memorial Methodist Chapel which had been erected in 1890. Faucette went to St. Louis to study the architecture of the buildings there and chose a bank from whose design he had copied for the Municipal Building. Architect John L. Howard was hired to supervise the plans and Schmelezer and Schay were hired as the builders. According to city records, to make payments for the construction, the city officers voted to take only token salaries. The mayor took a cut from \$125 a month to \$125 a year, the city attorney from \$50 a month to \$50 a year and the aldermen took their monthly paychecks of \$25 as a yearly salary.

Construction was progressing satisfactorily until the digging of the basement in the rear began. After digging a few feet, the workers ran into quicksand. Faucette made a trip to New Orleans to observe how buildings are constructed on quicksand. In New Orleans he found it not at all unusual to use a concrete "hull" to float a big building on a sea of quicksand. A concrete slab fourteen inches thick was laid across the bottom and up the sides. On top of this slab hundreds of cotton bales were piled to provide a solid foundation for the building. With the problems of the quicksand solved, the construction progressed rapidly. At completion, the building cost \$75,000. On July 5, 1915, the building was officially opened with a formal reception.

North Little Rock City Hall stands as a monument to the founding fathers of the city.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arkansas Gazette, September 25, 1955.

Neil, Jackie C. (North Little Rock City Clerk). Interview at North Little Rock City Hall, North Little Rock, Arkansas, April 28, 1975.

North Little Rock Times, March 14, 1974.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------|------------------|---------------------|---|------|---------|----------|
| A | 1, 5 | 5, 6, 7, 0, 7, 0 | 3, 8, 4, 6, 0, 4, 0 | B | | | |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| D | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE

Sandra Taylor, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

June 10, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

300 West Markham

TELEPHONE

(501) 371-1639

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

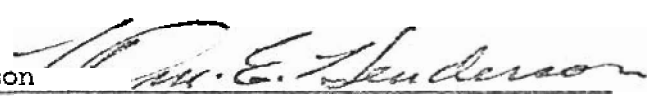
STATE

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

William E. Henderson



TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

June 10, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

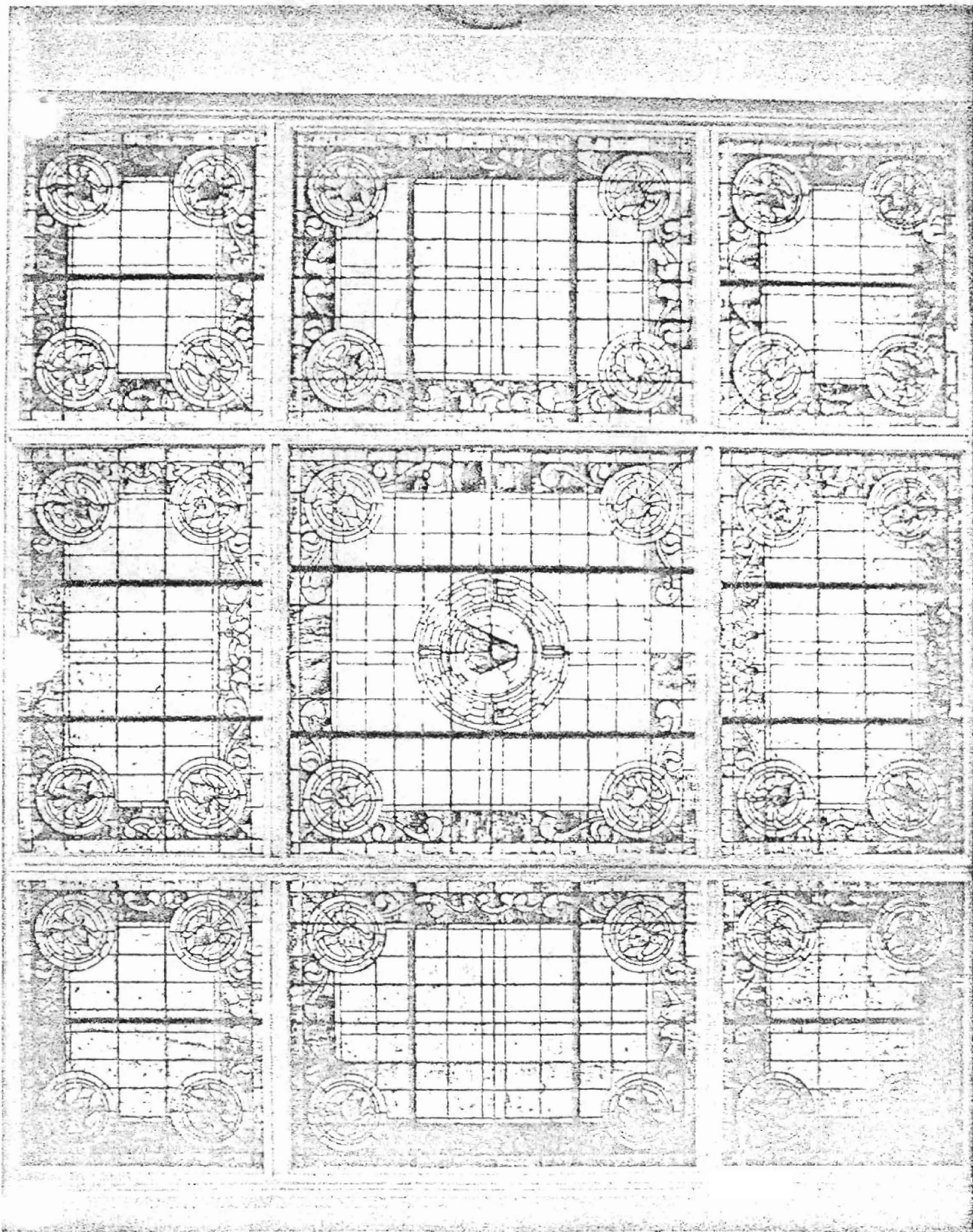
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

North Little Rock City Hall

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

North Little Rock

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY
Pulaski

STATE
Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Bob Dunn

DATE OF PHOTO

1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Skylight, note C of A in center pane.

PHOTO NO

2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

North Little Rock City Hall

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

North Little Rock

VICINITY OF

Pulaski

COUNTY

Arkansas

STATE

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

United States Geological Survey

SCALE

1:2400

DATE

1961 (photo revised 1970)

4 REQUIREMENTS

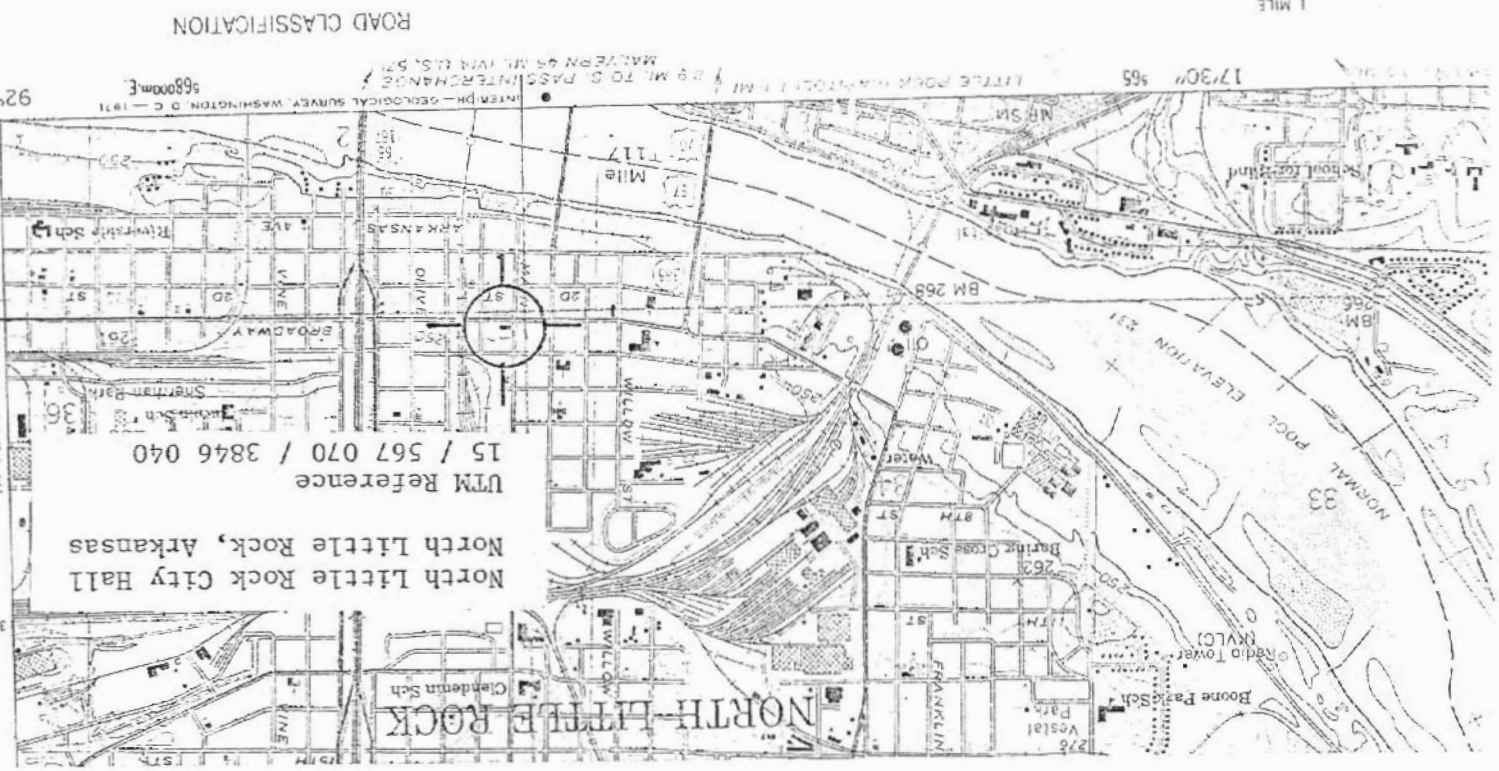
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES

2. NORTH ARROW

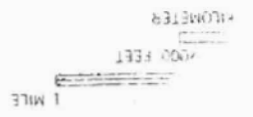
3. UTM REFERENCES

North Little Rock, Arkansas
UTM Reference
15 / 567 070 / 3846 040



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

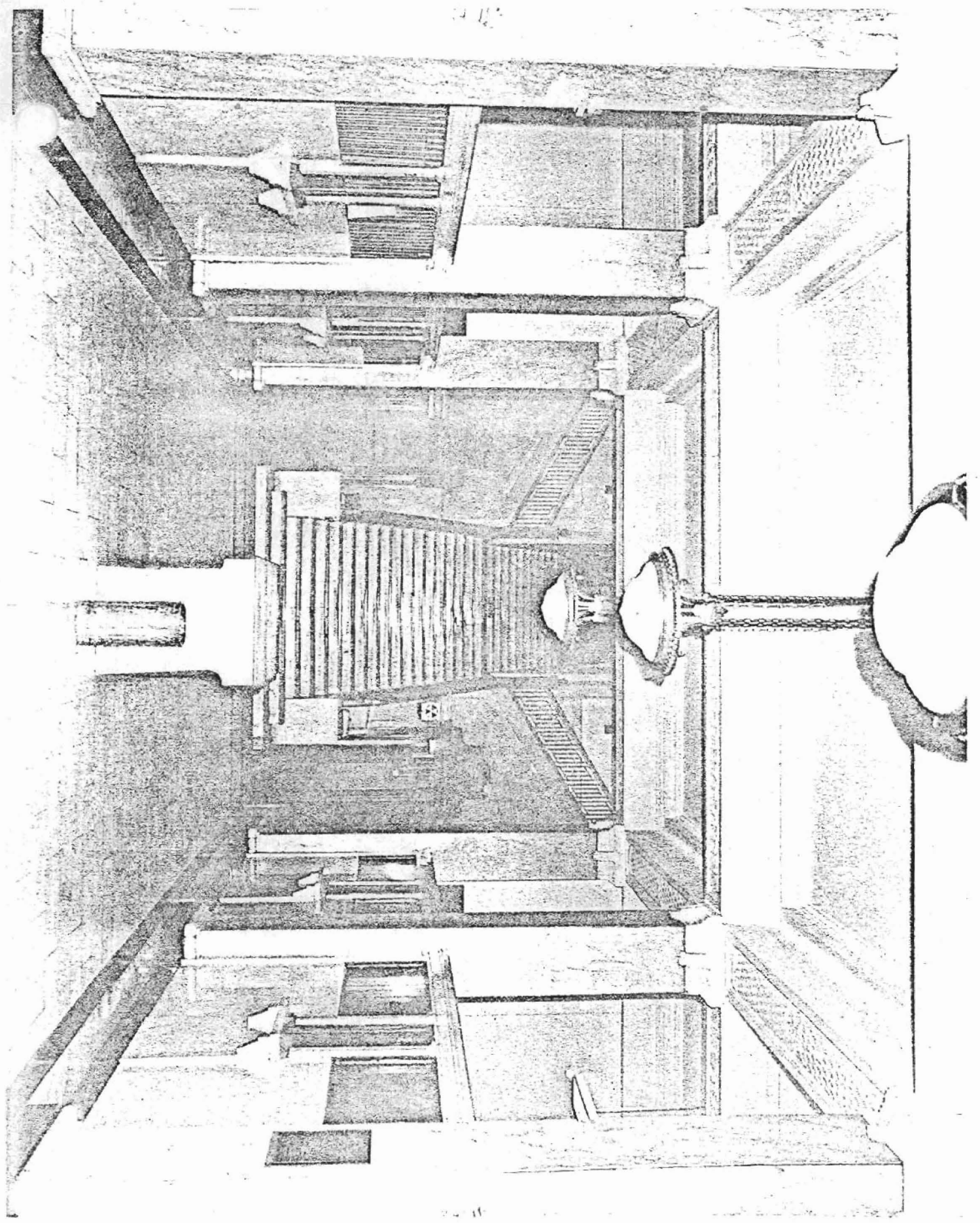
- Heavy-duty
- Light-duty
- Medium-duty
- Unimproved dirt
- Interstate Route
- U.S. Route
- State Route



FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

North Little Rock City Hall

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

North Little Rock

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY
Pulaski

STATE
Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Bob Dunn

DATE OF PHOTO

1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

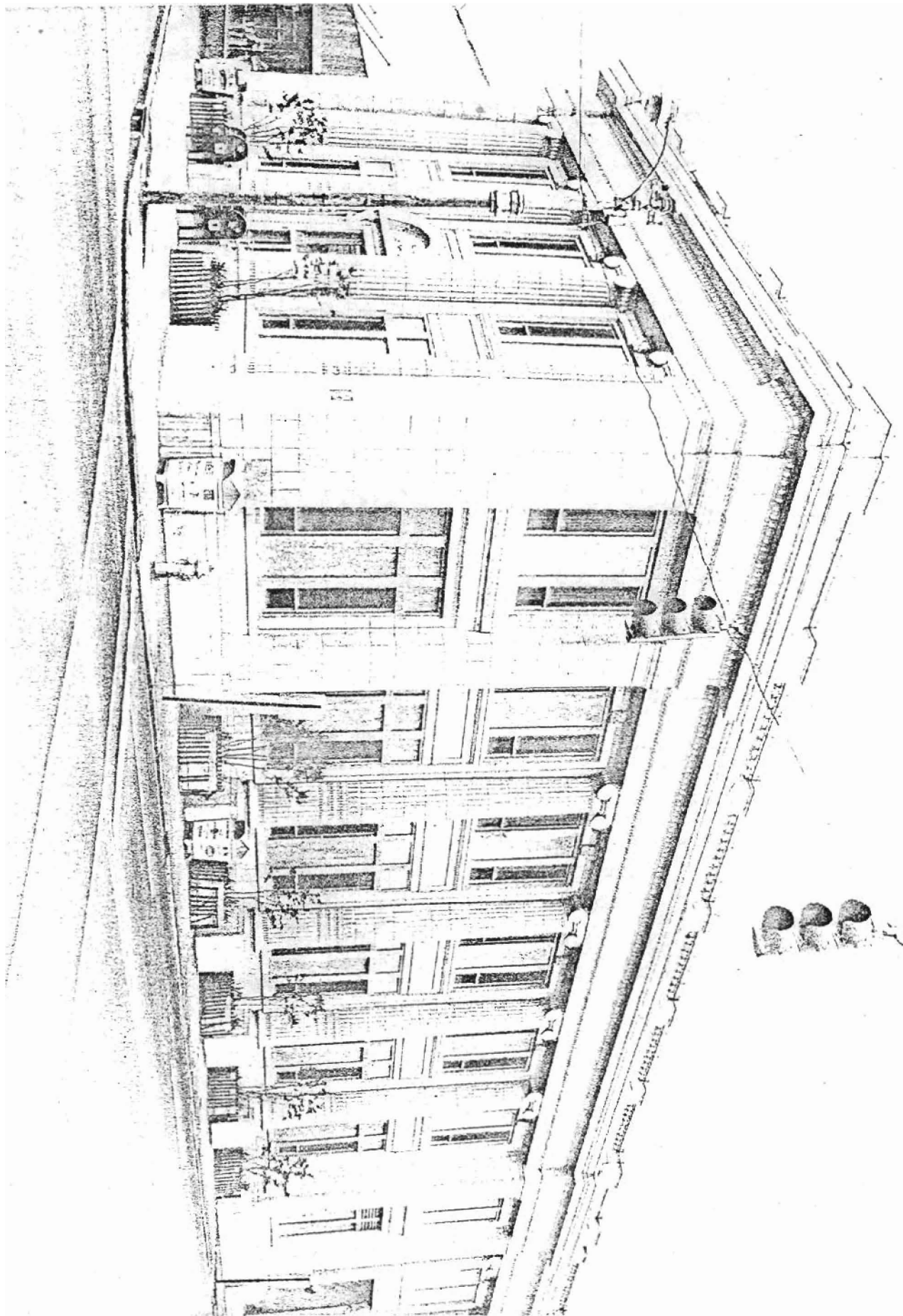
4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO

Main lobby, note marble, beamed ceilings, column capitals

3



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC North Little Rock City Hall

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN North Little Rock VICINITY OF COUNTY Pulaski STATE Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Bob Dunn DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

Facade and south elevation, viewed from the southwest

1