

RESOURCE AREA, LITTLE ROCK, PULASKI COU

Survey Number LR0031

Owner KATV

Property Name Worthen Bank Building

Address P. O. Box 77

Original Name \_\_\_\_\_

Little Rock, AR 72203

Location 401 Main Street

Construction Date 1928

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Worthen Bank Building, constructed in 1928 on the corner of 4th and Main Streets, is representative of the conservation and permanence of the institution that built it. The structure is primarily a Neo-Classical design, but displays some stylized decoration suggesting the rising popularity of the Art Deco style. Rectangular in plan, the three-story Worthen Bank Building was constructed using a steel frame and the clad in limestone. The Main Street facade features three window bays and the primary entrance. Ten bays and a secondary building entrance line the Fourth Street facade. Pilasters separating the bays feature capital-like, bas-relief decorative panels. An unadorned cornice and parapet band the building and the original carved notation-- W. B. Worthen Co.--has been covered over by the present owners. Large stationary windows are flanked by casements throughout the building and, on the first and second levels, these are further emphasized by narrow pilasters again capped with decorative panels. The spandrel panels are ornamented with geometrically-patterned medallions. Windows on this level have been frosted, possibly during remodeling project in 1954 or 1962. Otherwise, exterior alterations have been slight.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Worthen Bank Company is Little Rock's oldest, continuously-operated financial institution, founded in 1877. Basically conservative and small during its early years, the bank had grown by the late 1920s to command the respect and admiration of the entire state's banking community. It was only fitting, then, that they chose the state's most distinguished building designer, George Mann, to design their new building. Although Little Rock's other banking firms were relocating to Louisiana Street sites, Worthen remained committed to Main Street, following a precedent set by their previous facilities at Main & Markham Streets (1904-1914) and Main & Capitol Streets (1914-1928). Worthen Bank occupied this building until 1969 when, having become the largest bank in the state of Arkansas, they moved to a new tower on West Capitol Avenue. The Worthen Bank Building was purchased by KATV, the local ABC affiliate, and they adapted the space to the needs of a television station.

Verbal Boundary Description Lot 1, Block 5, Original City

Acreage Less than one

Quadrangle Name Little Rock, Arkansas

Quadrangle Scale 1:24000

UTM Reference

Zone 15

Easting 566795

Northing 3844795

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