

60-2-1705-21

NR 10-6-70

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

Arkansas	
COUNTY	Pulaski
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: The Little Rock

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: See appended map

CITY OR TOWN: Little Rock

STATE: Arkansas CODE: 03 COUNTY: CODE: 119

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input 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: Missouri Pacific Railroad

STREET AND NUMBER: Missouri Pacific Depot, Markham and Victory Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Little Rock STATE: Arkansas CODE: 03

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Pulaski County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Little Rock STATE: Arkansas CODE: 03

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" 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

At the present time only a portion of the original Little Rock remains. The remaining portion, however, is quite large and probably weighs several tons. It rises to a height of about 18 feet above the level of the Arkansas River and extends for a distance of approximately 40 feet along the bank. There are concrete steps leading down from the top of the river bank to the top of the rock and a descriptive, metal, historical marker is placed atop the "Rock". The marker is enclosed in an iron, pipe railing. This railing extends on either side of the concrete steps which lead from the top of the bank to the marker. The "Rock" stands at the river's edge at the foot of Rock Street on property which now belongs to the Missouri Pacific Railroad. Almost adjacent to the "Rock", and probably built on a portion of the original "Rock", is the approach to the Missouri Pacific Railroad bridge which crosses the river at this point. The site is overshadowed by the bridge and the visitor is forced to approach the site by crossing a series of railroad tracks which service a series of run-down warehouses along the riverfront.

Originally, the "Little Rock" probably was taller than the river-bank and would have certainly served as a landmark for someone approaching the site from downstream. The rock out-cropping, of which the "Little Rock" formed a part, apparently jutted out into the river, for early maps of the city show this point as an apparent protuberance on an otherwise smooth shoreline.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input 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)

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/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itorian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the "Little Rock", lies primarily in the fact that the Arkansas city, which is the largest in population, and the most important as the State Capitol, takes its name from this rock formation. Also significant is the knowledge that the "Little Rock" served as a starting point for most of the land surveys south of the Arkansas River.

The first known reference to "rocks" along the Arkansas River was by Bernard de La Harpe in the course of his explorations in April of 1722. La Harpe makes no reference at this time to Little Rock, however.

"On the ninth, having advanced a league, we found some rocky country, and a league further "The Rock", which is to the right of the river; we named it the French Rock. This is a steep mountain of clean rock made of limestone which forms three mountains one after the other"

The first reference to "The Little Rocks" was made after the United States had purchased Louisiana from the French. John B. Treat, in a letter written to the Secretary of War on November 15, 1805, states:

"For the first fifty leagues above this, both shores are moderately high, and well wooded, five or six leagues beyond the Country becomes somewhat mountainous and being stoney along the river side has caused it to be named the Little Rocks."

It is not until 1818 that we find the Little Rock being used as a landmark. At this time it was used as a reference, or base point for a survey of Indian lands. The following Statement is found in The Territorial Papers of the United States.

"Below a line to commence at the little rock on the Arkansas thence south to the Saline Creek."

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Arkansas	
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8. SIGNIFICANCE, CONT'D

It is interesting to note that the reference to Little Rock is in lower case.

In 1819 Thomas Nuttall made the following observation:

"The facade or cliffs, in which it terminates on the bank of the river is called the Little Rock, as it is the first stone which occurs in place."

Reuben Gold Thwaites, in providing an editor's footnote to the Nuttall Journal says:

"called La Petite Rochelle by the French, to distinguish it from the larger rocky promontory two miles further up the river."

Thwaites does not, however, document the source from which he quotes the name La Petite Rochelle.

Timothy Flint, in his A Condensed Geography and History of the Western States, published in 1828, makes the following observation:

"The seat of government is at a point about 300 miles by the course of the river and a little more than half the distance by land above the Post. It is on the south bank of the river, on a very high stone bluff, ludicrously called Little Rock, from the prodigious masses of stone about it. The situation is healthy and pleasant, and the circumstances of its being the metropolis has caused a village to spring up here. It is called Arcopolis."

By 1834-35, the name Little Rock was in general use for the town. G.W. Featherstonhaugh uses the name Little Rock in his book Excursion Through the Slave States and also gives the following version of how the town acquired its name.

"The town of Little Rock receives its name from being built upon the first rock - a slate which underlies the sandstone and dips SE at a great inclination - which juts out into the Arkansa, in coming up the river from its mouth in the Mississippi . . ."

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arkansas Gazette, October 26, 1873 (Article by Daniel T. Witter on Little Rock in 1820)

Carter, Clarence Edwin, The Territorial Papers of the United States, The Territory of Louisiana and Missouri 1803 - 1806. U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington: 1948, Vol. XIII p. 281.

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

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' 57"	92° 16' 02"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than an acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Jack E. Porter, Administrator, Historic Preservation Program

ORGANIZATION: Arkansas Planning Commission DATE: _____

STREET AND NUMBER: Game and Fish Building

CITY OR TOWN: Little Rock STATE: Arkansas CODE: 03

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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(Continuation Sheet)

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9. Major Bibliographical References - Cont'd

Carter, Clarence Edwin, The Territorial Papers of the United States, The Territory of Arkansas, 1819 -1825,
U. S. Government Office, Washington: 1953
Vol. XIX, p. 11

Featherstonhaugh, G. W., Excursion Through the Slave States, (2 Vols)
John Murray, London: 1844, Vol. II, p.39

Flint, Timothy, A Condensed History of the Western States (2 Vols),
E. H. Flint, Cincinnati: 1828, Vol. I, pp 584 - 585.

Lewis, Anna, Along the Arkansas, The Southwest Press, Dallas, Texas: 1932

Nuttall, Thomas, "Journals of Travels into the Arkansas Territory",
Early Western Travels 1748 - 1846, ed. Reuben Gold
Thwaites, The Arthur H. Clark Company, Cleveland:
1907, Vol XIII, p. 123, p. 146.

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

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

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2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: See appended map			
CITY OR TOWN: Little Rock			
STATE: Arkansas	CODE 03	COUNTY: Pulaski	CODE 119
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 7½' Quadrangle "Little Rock" (1961)			
SCALE: 1: 24,000			
DATE: 1961			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Property boundaries where required. North arrow. Latitude and longitude reference. 			

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

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3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Jack E. Porter			
DATE OF PHOTO: March 24, 1970			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Arkansas History Commission			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
<p>Monument and marker atop the Little Rock. This view looks to the north across the river (Arkansas). Barge in the background is carrying equipment used to rebuild the Missouri Pacific bridge.</p>			

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View of the remaining portion of the Little Rock,
looking to the northwest.



LITTLE ROCK

U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' Quadrangle Map "Little Rock" Scale 1:24,000

Map labels include: PACIFIC, CHICAGO, ROCK ISLAND, WASHINGTON, BARBON, HAYDEN, BIDDLE, GILLAM, MISSOURI, FAIRVIEW, GILLIES CH, MINES, NATIONAL CEMETERY, OAKLAND CEMETERY, DRIVE-IN THEATER, VA HOSPITAL, WATERHOLE CEMETERY, MOUNTAIN HIGH SCH, EAST SIDE JR HIGH SCH, UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, PARK ARTHUR, PARHAM SCH, GIBBS SCH, ARKANSAS BAPTIST COLLEGE, PHILANDER SMITH COLLEGE, MI HOLY COM, WEST SIDE JR HIGH SCH, BAPTIST HOSPITAL, CENTRAL HIGH SCH, CAPITOL HILL SCH, STATE CAPITOL, COURTHOUSE, MARKHAM INTERCHANGE, SOUTH TERMINAL INTERCHANGE, GILLAM PARK, GRANITE MOUNTAIN SCH, GAGING, BM 271, 34 44' 57" S RIVER, 92° 16' 02" W, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 24, 30, 36, 37, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 456, 458, 460, 462, 464, 466, 468, 470, 472, 474, 476, 478, 480, 482, 484, 486, 488, 490, 492, 494, 496, 498, 500, 502, 504, 506, 508, 510, 512, 514, 516, 518, 520, 522, 524, 526, 528, 530, 532, 534, 536, 538, 540, 542, 544, 546, 548, 550, 552, 554, 556, 558, 560, 562, 564, 566, 568, 570, 572, 574, 576, 578, 580, 582, 584, 586, 588, 590, 592, 594, 596, 598, 600, 602, 604, 606, 608, 610, 612, 614, 616, 618, 620, 622, 624, 626, 628, 630, 632, 634, 636, 638, 640, 642, 644, 646, 648, 650, 652, 654, 656, 658, 660, 662, 664, 666, 668, 670, 672, 674, 676, 678, 680, 682, 684, 686, 688, 690, 692, 694, 696, 698, 700, 702, 704, 706, 708, 710, 712, 714, 716, 718, 720, 722, 724, 726, 728, 730, 732, 734, 736, 738, 740, 742, 744, 746, 748, 750, 752, 754, 756, 758, 760, 762, 764, 766, 768, 770, 772, 774, 776, 778, 780, 782, 784, 786, 788, 790, 792, 794, 796, 798, 800, 802, 804, 806, 808, 810, 812, 814, 816, 818, 820, 822, 824, 826, 828, 830, 832, 834, 836, 838, 840, 842, 844, 846, 848, 850, 852, 854, 856, 858, 860, 862, 864, 866, 868, 870, 872, 874, 876, 878, 880, 882, 884, 886, 888, 890, 892, 894, 896, 898, 900, 902, 904, 906, 908, 910, 912, 914, 916, 918, 920, 922, 924, 926, 928, 930, 932, 934, 936, 938, 940, 942, 944, 946, 948, 950, 952, 954, 956, 958, 960, 962, 964, 966, 968, 970, 972, 974, 976, 978, 980, 982, 984, 986, 988, 990, 992, 994, 996, 998, 1000.