

60-186-110-62

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

ALBERT PIKE HOTEL

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Seventh and Scott

CITY, TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

CODE

05

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

COUNTY

Pulaski

CODE

119

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

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

Residence Hotel

NAME

Second Baptist Church

STREET & NUMBER

Eighth and Scott

CITY, TOWN

Little Rock

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

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

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 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

The 175-room Albert Pike Hotel was erected in 1929. It was designed by architect, Eugene John Stern, in partnership with George R. Mann, architect of the Arkansas State Capitol Building. The hotel is built in the Italian-Spanish Revival style of architecture and cost approximately \$1,000,000 to construct.

The basic floor plan is U-shaped. The two main wings, eight stories in height, protrude to help enclose an open court extending above the first two stories. The two eight-story wings are connected by a ten-story section. Topping the structure are two towers, which house the elevator machinery, set at either end of the roof on the east elevation. On the north and south elevations and on the facade of the two wings are decorated pediments which extend approximately five feet above the roofline. The flat roof features sloping tile eaves.

The facade of the Albert Pike Hotel is marked by a "cloister-type" porch. The multi-lite, triple-arched windows are flanked by the main entries. Located above these entries are terra-cotta medallions, each featuring a heraldic shield with the initials "AP." Other windows on the first floor facade are decorative in their utilization of cast stone. Windows are rectangular with simple trim above the second-story line. The tile eaves of the roof above the cloister porch are supported by ornamental brackets with pediments in between.

Adjoining the hotel building on the east elevation is a two-story garage. This structure also employs the use of the tile roof.

The interior of the first two floors is almost entirely original and is in an excellent state of preservation. The elaborate interior design includes detailed stenciling, leaded and stained-glass windows, extensive decorative tile and iron work and intricate light fixtures. Of special note is the coffered ceiling in the large main lobby. Octagonal-shaped panels surround small diamond-shaped panels with pendants. The multi-colored patterns (between the raised plaster moldings) were applied with paint using separate stencils for each color. These designs exemplify a type of decoration popular in the second-half of the nineteenth century and early twentieth. Of special note are the wood-paneled ceilings in the north hallway. These ceilings feature painted diamond panels projecting from the rich-grained wood.

Brass-paneled elevator doors are set into glazed tile walls. Ornately designed glazed tile is found frequently in the decoration of the interiors. Mosaic tile floors are found throughout the first floor. Another feature of note is the landing on the stairway to the mezzanine which is marked by a solid railing with two heraldic medallions set among intricate designs.

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The Albert Pike Hotel has undergone no major changes since its construction. In the late 1960's, a two-story modern addition of rooms was constructed on the south elevation, but did not alter the basic structure of the main building.

The Albert Pike Hotel has been an important landmark in Little Rock since its construction. The hotel is now owned by the Second Baptist Church and administered by them as a residence hotel. This is an appropriate adaptive use which not only keeps the hotel in excellent condition, but also contributes to the remembrance of an era in which the Albert Pike Hotel was a center of affluence.

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 type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES 1929

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Eugene John Stern & George R. Mann

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The one hundred and seventy-five room Albert Pike Hotel was constructed in 1929 at an approximate cost of \$1,000,000. The Albert Pike Hotel reflects "the affluent decade," the 1920's, in its elaborateness and richness of design. The nineteen-twenties was a decade of great prosperity, as reflected by the garishness of architecture. The hotel is built in the Italian-Spanish Revival style, made popular in this era by the influence of California. This style is identified by arches, terra-cotta work, natural-finish exposed beams and tiled roofs. The interiors, also reflective of this style, feature elaborate stenciling, leaded and stained-glass windows and extensive decorative tile and iron work. The Albert Pike Hotel is Little Rock's only remaining major example of the Italian-Spanish Revival style of architecture.

Though only indirectly related to the building itself, the significance of the site on which the Albert Pike Hotel was built is quite impressive. The site and an earlier house located on it played important roles in nineteenth-century Arkansas, both before and after Arkansas achieved statehood. The block in which the Albert Pike Hotel is located was occupied by a house built in 1827 for Robert Crittenden, Secretary of Arkansas Territory. The Crittenden House was one of the first brick residences to be constructed in Little Rock. Shortly after his expensive house was completed, Crittenden came out on the short end of a political battle and was removed from his office. This loss of salary coupled with the expense of his house drove him close to bankruptcy. He attempted to trade the house for ten section of undeveloped land, hoping that the house would become the Territorial Capitol, but this was vetoed by Governor John Pope in 1834. When Crittenden died in 1834, his mortgage was foreclosed and the house was sold to Judge Benjamin Johnson. The Johnson heirs sold it to Dr. E. V. Dewell, whose wife was a great niece of Mrs. Crittenden. Dr. Dewell sold it to Governor James P. Eagle and it became the official governor's residence (1889-1893). The Crittenden House was razed in 1920, nine years before the Albert Pike Hotel was built on the site. Still another feature is also reflective of nineteenth-century Arkansas; this feature is the hotel's name. When plans for the hotel began, it was decided to call it the "Albert Pike Hotel" after one of Arkansas' leading historical figures. Pike, a many-talented man, left his native Massachusetts and arrived in Arkansas in 1832. From then until he left Arkansas in 1868, his life and endeavors left their mark on the history of the state. During the early years of Pike's life in Arkansas, he achieved renown as teacher, attorney, and newspaperman. Later he gained admission to the Bar of the United States Supreme Court, represented the Choctaw Indians in treaty disputes with the United States government, served as brigadier general in the Confederate army, and sat as a member on the Arkansas Supreme Court.

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The main significance of the Albert Pike Hotel, though, lies not in the site on which it stands nor in the man for whom it was named; rather the real significance lies in its vivid reflections of a bygone time and an architecture appropriate to that time. The Albert Pike was built in the year of the great crash, but as near as crash and depression were, the time was still the "Roaring Twenties" when the hotel was built. It was still a time of spending, speculation, and naive economic optimism. The lavishness of the hotel's architecture is a kind of social art reflecting that time of high living so soon to end. The hotel's status as a contemporary structure was short-lived, for the coming of the depression in the thirties soon gave it the aura of a monument to the past.

And so the hotel has stood through four and a half decades in its grand and monumental reflection of the Twenties. In 1971 the Second Baptist Church of Little Rock bought the Albert Pike for \$740,000 and made it into a residence hotel. But, it is not the hotel's function which is important, rather it is the splendid appearance of the structure which gives it its architectural and historical significance.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Arkansas Gazette. May 23, 1928.
- Arkansas Gazette. October 31, 1971.
- Herndon, Dallas T. Centennial History of Arkansas. Little Rock: S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1922.
- Quapaw Quarter Chronicle, May/June 1974.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME _____

QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------|---------|----------|------|---------|----------|---|--|--|--|
| A | 1,5 | 5,6,6 | 8,4,0 | 3,8 | 4,4 | 4,5,0 | B | | | |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | | | |
| C | | | | D | | | | | | |
| E | | | | F | | | | | | |
| G | | | | H | | | | | | |

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 Smith, National Register Section

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

9/27/78

STREET & NUMBER

Suite 500, Continental Bldg., Main at Markham Sts.

TELEPHONE

501-371-2763

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock,

STATE

Arkansas 72201

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

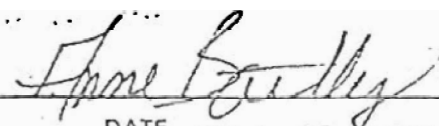
STATE

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

ANNE BARTLEY



TITLE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE Sept. 27, 1978

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

LITTLE ROCK QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

7553 / SW
IMC ALMONT

NE 1/4 ALEXANDER 15' QUADRANGLE

SVILLE 10 MI.
LIGHTS 7.9 MI.

CONWAY 32 MI. (VIA U.S. 65)
0.5 MI. TO JUNC. U.S. 65

1.7 MI. TO NORTH TERMINAL
INTERCHANGE

92°15'
34°45'

