

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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historic name: Luxor Apartments

other name/site number: N/A

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2. Location

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street & number: 1923 Main Street

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Little Rock

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Pulaski code: AR 119

zip code: 72202

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: Little Rock Apartment Buildings, 1900-1945

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification
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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Clayton A. Slaton _____ 2-22-95
Signature of certifying official Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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5. National Park Service Certification
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I, hereby certify that this property is:

____ entered in the National Register _____
____ See continuation sheet. _____
____ determined eligible for the _____
National Register _____
____ See continuation sheet. _____
____ determined not eligible for the _____
National Register _____
____ removed from the National Register _____
____ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper Date
of Action

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6. Function or Use
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Historic: DOMESTIC Sub: Multiple dwelling

Current: VACANT/NOT IN USE Sub: _____

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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See "Little Rock Apartment Buildings, 1900-1945," Section H.

X See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- X State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Less than one

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	<u>15</u>	<u>566540</u>	<u>3843120</u>	B	<u>15</u>	_____
C	<u>15</u>	_____	_____	D	<u>15</u>	_____

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ___ See continuation sheet.

Lots 4 & 5, Block 423, DuVall's Addition to the Original City of Little Rock, Arkansas.

Boundary Justification: ___ See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all the property historically-associated with this resource.

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11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 02/16/95

Street & Number: 323 Center Street, Suite 1500 Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR Zip: 72201

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Summary

The Luxor Apartments building is a two-story brick faced Craftsman style apartment building. Configured in a U-shape, the Luxor contained twenty-eight units, making it one of the largest apartment buildings in the city of Little Rock at the time of its construction in 1924.

Elaboration

The Luxor Apartments building is located at the northeast corner of 20th and Main Streets, several blocks to the east of the Governor's Mansion Historic District (NR 9/13/78). The building features Craftsman style characteristics, common to many buildings in the area. The most unique aspect of the Luxor is its size. The two-story brick structure with flat roof contained twenty-eight efficiency and one-bedroom units.

The building is arranged in a "U" configuration, with the open end facing Main Street and the building wings defining an entry courtyard. The exterior is sparsely detailed. Notable features include the shed roof over the main entrance supported by Craftsman brackets. The entry door has an arched light above. Brick soldier courses at the first floor and roof level break the otherwise unadorned brick facades. The facades on all sides are punctuated by windows which vary in size according to the functional spaces within. All windows are double hung with a three-over-one light configuration. The building has the typical flat roof common to large size Craftsman structures.

Interiors are similarly sparse in detail. Significant features include built-in china cases in each apartment's dining area, built-in cabinetry in dressing rooms, and built-in Murphy-In-A-Door beds which remain in several of the efficiency units. French doors, which separated the bedrooms from the living areas in one-bedroom units, remain in one unit. The original hardwood floors, (octagonal tile floors in bathrooms), plaster walls, and windows and doors are generally intact. Some kitchen and bath fixtures remain.

Significant details in the public areas of the building are the main staircase in the center of the building, with the second-floor railing intact, and the massive pocket fire doors, intended to keep fire from spreading from one wing to the other. The building also features vertical chases to provide light and ventilation to the hallways and the apartments located at the interior corners of the "U" plan.

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In 1957 to meet the still growing demand for apartments near Little Rock's central business district, a second building was constructed. Luxor Manor, located at 1917 S. Main Street, next door to the 1924 Luxor Apartment building, is a two-story brick building with gable roof. Garages for the Luxor Apartments originally occupied the site. Although not historic, Luxor Manor is included in the renovation project planned for six apartment buildings in the immediate vicinity.

The building is currently vacant and boarded. Despite alterations to the interiors, the Luxor Apartments building remains remarkably intact.

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Summary

Criterion C, local significance

The Luxor Apartments building is a two-story brick veneered structure designed in the Craftsman style, unique to the Little Rock area in its size. Little Rock experienced a flurry of apartment construction during the 1920s, as land in the downtown area became scarcer and demand for housing near the central business district increased. Few of the buildings constructed at the time, however, housed more than eight units. The Luxor, with twenty-eight units, was one of the largest apartment buildings in the city at the time of its construction in 1924.

Elaboration

The Luxor Apartments Building was built by Samuel J. Storthz, Sr., member of a Jewish family prominent in the Little Rock business community. The Storthz family was active in a number of successful business ventures in Arkansas. Levi Storthz, a native of Germany and grandfather of Samuel Sr., came to Little Rock in 1886 and established a jewelry business at Markham and Main Streets which he passed on to his sons Joseph (Samuel Sr.'s father) and Samuel (Samuel Sr.'s uncle and namesake). Levi and his son Samuel together owned a large tract of bauxite land in Saline and Pulaski Counties, and about 4000 acres of zinc properties in Marion, Boone, Newton, and Searcy Counties in north central Arkansas. The brothers Samuel and Joseph Storthz carried on the jewelry business, first under the name of Storthz brothers, and later as the Crescent Jewelry Co. In 1920 they founded the Interstate Jobbing Company, a wholesale dry-goods firm. Samuel Storthz, Sr., eventually joined his father and uncle in the business, becoming president of the firm upon their retirement. He was also vice-president of Busy Department Stores.

At the time of its construction, the Luxor was considered a very desirable address. The building featured a uniformed doorman, apparently something of an anomaly in Little Rock at the time. A newspaper advertisement for the opening of the Luxor on August 10, 1924 stated:

The building is complete in every respect...and compares favorably with modern apartments in large cities, marking a step forward for Little Rock....Make a Luxor Apartment Your Home- The beauty, convenience, and desirable location of these new apartments appeal to homemakers. They are designed for modern and comfortable housekeeping, and include the latest built-in features, stoves, shades, refrigerator and water are furnished.

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The majority of the Luxor's tenants were young couples and single working people, as is indicated by the size of the units, which are all either efficiency or one-bedroom apartments. Construction of the Luxor Apartment building in 1924 represents the rapid urbanization of Little Rock in the early decades of the twentieth century. Attention to technology and "modern" conveniences were emphasized. With easy access to the central business district by streetcar, the Luxor's location continued to be an advantage through the 1970s.

The Luxor Apartments building is eligible under Criterion C in its representation of community planning and development in its association with growth and urbanization of the city of Little Rock as a result of a changing society, population increase, and technological advances of the 1920s.













