

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Charles R. Craig Building

other names/site number BE0366

2. Location

street & number 113 South Main Street

not for publication

city or town Bentonville

vicinity

state Arkansas

code AR

County Benton

code 007

zip code 72712

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant

nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]  
Signature of certifying official/Title

8/11/03  
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 for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Craig, Charles R., Building  
Name of Property

Benton County, Arkansas  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	Sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Historic and Architectural Resources of Benton County,  
Arkansas

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE: business

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE: business

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

20<sup>th</sup> Century Commercial Style

Italianate

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls METAL: Tin

STUCCO

roof ASPHALT

other

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Craig, Charles R., Building  
Name of Property

Benton County, Arkansas  
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations  
(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

Circa 1910  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

Circa 1910- Built  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Craig, Charles R. Building  
Name of Property

Benton County, Arkansas  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property Less than one

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>391601</u>	<u>4025585</u>	3	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	4	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Part of Lot 82 in the Original Town of Bentonville, Arkansas, described as beginning at the NW Corner of said Lot 82; thence East 80 feet; thence South 48 feet; thence West 80 feet; thence North 48 feet to the place of beginning.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary contains all resources historically associated with the Craig Building that retain integrity.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Wendy S. Perkins, National Register Historian  
Organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 11 June 2003  
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone 501-324-9874  
city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72201

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Randy and Valorie Lawson  
street & number 208 Devon Green telephone 479-273-2670  
city or town Bentonville state Arkansas zip code 72712

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### SUMMARY

The C.R. Craig Building, located at 113 South Main Street in Bentonville, Benton County, is a two-story brick constructed building that was built in circa 1900. The stucco clad building features Italianate elements in the form of decorative pressed tin that covers the building's façade. The Craig Building is located just one and one-half block south of Bentonville Square and was part of the original platted lots developed in 1837 when Bentonville was founded. The flat with parapet roof and brick and stucco walls rests upon a continuous brick foundation.

### ELABORATION

Constructed at the corner of S. Main Street and an unidentified alley, the Craig Building, is a two-story brick constructed building designed in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Commercial style. The two-story stucco building is one of the anchor buildings in the downtown Bentonville development district. Noted for its Italianate influenced elements such as garlands, shells, Doric columns, and stylized floral, the building is rectangular in shape with a one-story addition on the rear.

Locally produced brick is likely to have been used to construct the building. From 1886 to 1896, John Haney and Zechariah Mitchell both had producing brickyards in Bentonville. Records indicate that Mitchell's brickyard produced 120,000 brick in 1887 and 260,000 in 1888. It is believed that local architect W.T. Ritter designed the building and Lon A. Pace, a local builder at the time is thought to have done the actual construction.

The Laughlin Hotel is rectangular in shape and fits neatly into the first block of South Main with the north end of the building next to a walk-through alleyway which leads to Southeast "A" Street and then connects to the historic Benton County Courthouse. The exterior of the building has been extensively renovated yet done so in keeping with the original design integrity.

### West Elevation

The front façade of this stylistic Italianate two-story commercial building faces west. This may have been done to take advantage of the availability of natural sunlight. The afternoon sun would stream into the two large windows on the ground floor and the two narrow side-by-side windows of the second floor as well as through the manually opened skylight roof window that once was located mid-way on the second floor. The front façade has cast iron cornices and capitals attached to the front of the building that are tied together by a metal column that rests between the two second-story windows.

The main roof is of composition roll roofing. The roofline has end corbels and a metal paneled frieze featuring shell-patterned relief. The first floor retains a metal beltway covering the original brick. The metal has garland and wreath relief.

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### North Elevation

The north side of the structure is covered with stucco and lack the ornamentation found on the front of the building. An upper story stationary window is the only fenestration on the two-story front portion of the elevation. The middle portion of the elevation is covered in stucco and is only one story in height. A single metal door allows access to the side of the building. The rearmost portion of the north side is made up of a concrete block addition that features a single roll-up garage door.

### East Elevation

The east side of the building is primarily made up of the concrete block addition. The only notable features of the elevation are two fixed position windows that are located on the two-story section of the building.

### South Elevation

The south wall of the building shares a party wall with the neighboring business.

### Interior

One key interior feature is the original metal ceiling that has been retained on the first floor. On the west end of the entry room is the large walk-in safe that was installed in the early 1930s. The safe is now used as filing storage. **This safe may have been used by Charles R. Craig and J. W. Blocker (owner of Bentonville Apple Evaporator) for their offices or by the Jewelry Store that once was located there.** Speculation also is that one of the local hotels may have used the safe as well. On the southwest corner of the interior is a beautiful wooden staircase that has been rebuilt to emulate original look and style.

The second floor is composed of a main office, a small hallway, a bathroom, and a conference room. Also noteworthy is a unique jalousie window that has been retained in the main office.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

### SUMMARY

The Charles Craig Building located at 113 South Main Street in Bentonville, Arkansas, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** with **local significance** as the best example of a two-story commercial building featuring a pressed-tin façade in downtown Bentonville. It is being nominated under the historic context, *Historic and Architectural Resources of Benton County, Arkansas*.

### ELABORATION

Benton County is in the extreme northwest corner of Arkansas, bordered by Oklahoma on the west and Missouri on the north. According to Goodspeed's *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northwestern Arkansas*, it is believed that the first white settlers in the area now known as Benton County arrived around 1830. On 15 June 1836, Arkansas became the 25<sup>th</sup> state of the Union. Benton County was organized on 30 September 1836. The county was named after Missouri Senator, Thomas Hart Benton, who helped the Arkansas Territory reach statehood.

Although the town of Bentonville was created in 1837, it was re-incorporated on January 7 1837, which is the date generally accepted as the "official" designation of the City of Bentonville. Three men, Robert Cowen, Robert Weaver and Thomas Swaggerty, selected the site for the town of Bentonville in 1837. These men wrote, "We the undersigned Commissioners elected under an act of the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas... beg leave to report that we have selected a site... for the county seat..." With the authority given to them, they proceeded to lay out a town, "leaving a square and making 136 lots and have named and called said town, Bentonville." Therefore, the town of Bentonville in Benton County became one of only two such county seats in the State with the same surname, the other being Perryville in Perry County, Arkansas.

By 1837 the town had at least 30 settlers including a Samuel Burks, the owner of the Elk Horn Tavern in Pea Ridge, which is the site of the Battle of Pea Ridge. Burks was listed as the first owner of the property at 113 South Main Street. By the year 1860 the town of Bentonville contained five general stores, the furniture store of Henry Baumeister, the Vestal Hotel, the saddle and harness shop of J.W. Clark, the Clark Hotel and three or four mechanics shops. Bentonville was growing considerably with some 500 residents.

In 1852 James T. Craig became a resident of Bentonville. He engaged in merchandising until the Civil War broke out. At the beginning of the war he left Bentonville and returned to Cane Hill and continued farming until 1871. At that time he returned to Bentonville to continue merchandising until 1882 when he turned his business over to sons. His home, the Craig-Bryan House (National Register 1/28/88) was the first two-story house constructed in Bentonville.

Charles R. Craig was born in 1854 and was in the real estate business in Bentonville. He was also engaged in the mercantile establishment of Craig & Sons. Charles and his brother, George, became involved with the growth of the Kansas City, Pittsburg & Gulf Railroad and were active in procurement of the rights-of-way

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and the laying of the rail lines. He was very active in church and civic activities and in the business of buying and improving farms in Arkansas. He never owned an automobile and never learned to drive one. Family members took him wherever he needed to go. Besides this convenience, he had passes on two railroads but his favorite mode of traveling was walking. Many times he walked the seven miles from Bentonville to Rogers and would transact business before walking back home. He would walk from Bentonville to Gravette, which was nearly twice as far away as Rogers.

Little is known about the actual use of the Craig building. We do know from Sanborn Maps that the building was used as an office on the first floor and a photography studio on the second floor. One can assume that Mr. Craig used the first story office space for his real estate business, as the building's close proximity to the Benton County Courthouse would have been an idea location for such a business. However, at this time we have no concrete evidence of this.

Later the building was owned by Mr. J. W. Blocker. Blocker, owner of the Bentonville Apple Evaporator, located his office in the building. In the early 1900s Benton County was the top apple producing county in the entire United States.

Today the building continues its historic function as an office building and has recently been rehabilitated. Owner Randy Lawson now uses the building for his business, Lawco Exploration, Inc.

### Statement of Significance

The Charles Craig Building located at 113 South Main Street in Bentonville, Arkansas, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** with **local significance** as the best example of a two-story commercial building featuring a pressed-tin façade in downtown Bentonville. It is being nominated under the historic context, *Historic and Architectural Resources of Benton County, Arkansas*.

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### Bibliography

Abstract of Title Certificate No 73144, Tucker Abstract Company, P.O. Box 88; Bentonville, Arkansas with last date of September 7, 1962 for Lot 82 in the Original Town of Bentonville, Arkansas

Black, J. Dickson, *History of Benton County, 1836-1936*,

Black, J. Dickson, *Bentonville and its Bank; "Growing Together for Fifty Years"*

Benton County Heritage Committee, *History of Benton County, Arkansas, Rogers, Arkansas 199*, Curtis Media Corporation.

Benton County Daily Record, *Bentonville: Looking Back 130 years, Sunday, January 6, 2003*

Benton County Historical Society, Benton County Pioneer, "*Benton County Timeline, 1541-1999; revised and re-compiled by Tom Duggan.*

Benton County Democrat, "Souvenir Illustrated Edition – Bentonville, Arkansas, June, 1896; Jo. S. Stevenson, Editor and Publisher

Charles R. Craig Building  
Bentonville, Benton Co., AR  
UTM: 151391601E/4025585N

STATE OF ARKANSAS  
GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION  
LITTLE ROCK









