United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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INDIVIDUAL DATA SHEET

General Description

Code: PU 0177

Name: Beal-Burrow Dry Goods Building

Address: 107 East Markham

County: Pulaski

Congressional District:

Current Owner: Archer Drug Company

Address: 107 East Markham

Little Rock, AR 72201

Architectural Information

Architectural Firm: Charles Thompson and Thomas Harding

Date of Construction: 1920

Stylistic Influence: Prairie

Original Use: Dry Goods

Present Use: Drug Company

Geographical Information

UTM Reference:

Acreage: Less than one

Verbal Boundary Description: E part Losts 1, 2, 3; NE part Lot 4, Block 2,

Original City

Condition

Excellent
y Good
Fair

___Deteriorated ___Ruins ___Unexposed

__Unaltered

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Physical Description

The Beal-Burrow Dry Goods Company Building is a 7-story, brick clad, concrete frame structure which is representative of many early 20th Century commercial buildings. Built for a wholesale dry goods firm, it was modern and efficient when it opened in 1920. Although modest in style, the building's primary facade, the north, displays elements of the Prairie style. Here the brick is accented with horizontal limestone bands at the 1st and 7th story levels. Bands of industrial-type, metal sash windows across the east, west and south facades further emphasize the horizontal dimension. On the first floor, the structural elements between the window bays are punctuated with large medallions which are inscribed with the initials B-B. The building's recessed entrance is located in the center of the street facade and is surrounded by massive stone detailing. The structure's shaft is simply finished in red brick, fine on the north facade, common on the sides and rear. The crown is marked by a wide, metal cornice supported by straight brackets which shade a band of small attic windows complete with wrought metal screens. On the north facade, the wood windows are generally eight-over-eight. double-hung sash, although there is an intriguing vertical alignment of small stationary windows, topped by a large limestone decoration in the shape of a keyhole, set in relief, on the eastern edge of this facade. With the exception of minor changes to the street-level window frames and the cornice, the exterior of the Beal-Burrow Building is as it was when the company moved into it.

Statement of Significance

Constructed in 1920, the Beal-Burrow Dry Goods Company Building is believed to have been designed by the architectural firm of Charles Thompson and Thomas Harding (only mechanical drawings are present in the Thompson Archives). Upon its completion, the Beal-Burrow Building was assigned a value by the county assessor's office that was comparable to several of Little Rock's finest structures — notably the Blass Department Store, the State Bank Building, and the Masonic Temple (Capitol and Main Streets). The original owner and user, the Beal-Burrow Company, was founded in 1913 as a wholesale operation and quickly gained prominence on a regional level. The location of their office and warehouse facilities near the intersection of Main and Markham Streets served to anchor the northern edge of Little Rock's commercial district. By 1926, the firm had begun to manufacture work clothes and several floors of this building were devoted to that industry. In 1955, the Archer Drug Company purchased the building from Berry Dry Goods Company, another wholesale establishment that had earlier bought out the Beal-Burrow partnership. Archer Drug continues to use the building as the home of their wholesale drug business.