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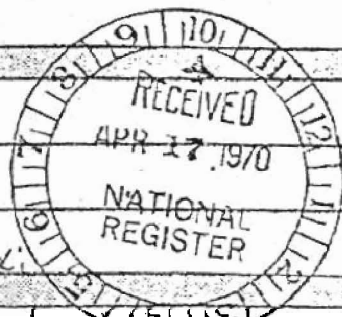
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

COUNTY: Pulaski	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON: Old Arsenal - Museum of Science and Natural History	
AND/OR HISTORIC: U. S. Arsenal Building	

2. LOCATION	
STREET AND NUMBER: MacArthur Park - Ninth at Commerce	
CITY OR TOWN: Little Rock	
STATE: Arkansas	CODE: 03
COUNTY: Pulaski	CODE: 119



3. CLASSIFICATION	
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered
STATUS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC 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 checked="" 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) _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY	
OWNER'S NAME: City of Little Rock	
STREET AND NUMBER: City Hall	
CITY OR TOWN: Little Rock	STATE: Arkansas
	CODE: 03

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION	
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Pulaski County Courthouse	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN: Little Rock	STATE: Arkansas
	CODE: 03

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS	
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey	
DATE OF SURVEY: 1934	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Division of Fine Arts, Library of Congress	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: District of Columbia
	CODE: 05

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Arsenal in City Park is a two-story brick building with two wings flanking a central tower. All of the stone used in the foundations came from Big Rock, north of the Arkansas River, and all the timber used in construction was cut and hauled from around Pine Bluff. The brick may have been made in the brickyard of Thomas Thorn, who also supplied the brick that was used in constructing the Old State House. Beams were 14" X 14", joined with thick iron plates and bolts and placed on 11½ foot centers.

Today the exterior of the building is completely rebuilt. The interior has been altered only slightly to accomodate its present use as a Museum of Science and Natural History.



Note: The use of the word "rebuilt" was perhaps misleading, but substantially correct; at least as it applies to the wooden verandas and stairways. The basic brick and masonry structure remains unaltered, while the wooden appurtenances have been restored to their pre-1900 appearance. See attached Continuation Sheets for more detailed description.

jep

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE

Arkansas

COUNTY

Pulaski

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7. DESCRIPTION CONT'D #1

The Old Arsenal is a two-story, brick, rectangular structure 122' long, 42' wide, with a full basement, and a three-story crenellated tower, octagonal in shape and 25' in diameter. The tower is located at the center of the north side of the building.

Rubble exterior walls, 3' 11" thick, rise from the foundations to the first floor level. Above this point exterior walls are brick averaging 2' 9" thick. All interior partitions are wood frame. First and second floor joists are 3"X12"s on 13" centers. First floor joists are supported by heavy wood girders supported by wood posts. The roof structure consists of heavy wood trusses spaced approximately 10" on centers, supporting 8"X10" purlins and 3"X6" rafters 16" on centers, and 3"X4" ceiling rafters 16" on centers.

A wood veranda runs the full length of the first floor on the south side, the roof being supported by wood columns spaced approximately 17' on centers. A two-story veranda runs along the north side from the ends of the building, terminating at the octagonal tower in the center of the structure. Lintels over narrow windows are limestone. Those over wide windows are wood.

The stone of the foundations is thought to have come from Big Rock, north of the Arkansas River. All timber used in the construction came from near Pine Bluff. The brick is believed to have been made in the brickyard of Thomas Thorn, who also supplied the brick that was used in the construction of the Old State House.

The building is in excellent condition, having recently undergone an exterior renovation. While the basic brick structure has remained unaltered over the years, there have been many changes in the wooden verandas and exterior stairways. It is entirely possible that the building was originally built without verandas. An 1863 Harper's engraving shows the rear of the arsenal and no veranda exists at that time. Existing photographs of the building prior to 1900, however, show the verandas existing on the front of the building in much the same manner as they are today. Photographs and measured drawings made during the 1935 Historic American Buildings Survey show the two verandas, but the second floor veranda was without a roof at that time. The present restoration conforms to the pre-1900 appearance.

As previously noted, virtually all alterations have been to the wooden, exterior portions of the building. Some balustrades have been removed from the first floor verandas and new exterior stairways to the central door of the octagonal tower have been installed in order to better channel the flow of visitors through the main entrance of the museum. The only interior changes have been the addition of some new partitions at the basement level. (See Continuation Sheet #2)

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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7. DESCRIPTION CONT'D #2

Except for the octagonal tower, the building is not an unusual structure and it would be difficult to describe it as belonging to any particular style.

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) 1838			
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			
<p>There had been much talk before 1836 of establishing an arsenal within the Territory of Arkansas, but little had been done to actually get the project started.</p> <p>Just after Arkansas was admitted into the Union, Governor James Sevier Conway made a plea to the War Department in which he said, "We trust that the enlightened members of that body (meaning Congress) will not forget the claims of Arkansas upon the public revenue. We are a frontier people exposed to savage invasions and are often in pressing need of assistance and protection which only the Federal government can afford."</p> <p>The governor went on to point out that many Indians were constantly passing through on their way to lands further west. The War Department responded and appropriated the sum of \$14,000 for an arsenal to be built at Little Rock. They then sent Lieutenant F. L. Jones of Army to select the site. The site which he chose is the same which today makes up MacArthur Park.</p> <p>The next two years were spent drawing up the agreements for the building supplies. Then in 1838 all was ready to begin. Mr. John Warmley Walker, a government employee, was sent from Baton Rouge, where he was supervising the building of an arsenal there, to Little Rock to serve as supervisor and master builder for the job here. He liked Arkansas so well that, after completion of the Arsenal, he decided to make his home here. According to the 1850 Census, three of his children were born on Arkansas soil.</p> <p>From the time of the Arsenal's completion in 1840, until the outbreak of the Civil War, little happened to disturb the regimented life of the post. Then came the frantic months before the outbreak of the war. The secession movement was growing. Several states had already seceded and in Arkansas the sentiment was gaining ground. In November of 1860 the Second United States Artillery was transferred to Little Rock from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, with Captain James Totten in command.</p>			
(See Continuation Sheet)			

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(Continuation Sheet)

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8. SIGNIFICANCE CONT'D

With the secession of South Carolina, December 20, 1860, Arkansas took steps to secure the Arsenal. On February 8, 1861, Captain Totten surrendered the Arsenal, intact, to Henry M. Rector, Governor of Arkansas. The land and the buildings of the arsenal were valued at \$100,000 and contained machinery for the repair of arms, 10,000 stand of arms, ammunition and several cannon.

On the 6th and 7th of March, 1862, Union forces under General Samuel Curtis defeated the Confederate forces under General Van Dorn at the Battle of Pea Ridge. This defeat led Van Dorn to withdraw across the Mississippi River in April of 1862. Van Dorn stripped Arkansas of men and military supplies and even removed machinery from the arsenal.

In the latter part of May, 1862, Major General Thomas C. Hindman took command of the military situation in Arkansas. The arsenal had never been adequately utilized. The machinery for the manufacture of ammunition had been operative from the time of the seizure of the arsenal in February of 1861, until its removal by Van Dorn; and Confederate troops, routed through Little Rock had used the machinery to manufacture cartridges for themselves. Hindman endeavored to make the arsenal operative. He secured materials for making ammunition from the citizens of Little Rock by means of donations, purchases and impressments. He re-established a laboratory at the arsenal to manufacture ammunition. He employed or conscripted gunsmiths, impressed or purchased tools and began to utilize the shops of the arsenal to repair damaged guns. In August of 1862, the Little Rock Arsenal became an official Confederate Ordnance Station. The arsenal was built up and did considerable manufacture of ammunition and repair of small arms. With the fall of Little Rock to the Union forces on September 10, 1863, the Confederates were forced to evacuate the arsenal and to move their operations to Arkadelphia and later to Tyler, Texas. The arsenal remained in Union hands until the end of the war.

After the Civil War the arsenal settled into the routine life of a peacetime military post. The only truly significant event that occurred at the post was the birth of Douglas MacArthur on January 26, 1880. On April 23, 1892, the arsenal and grounds were traded by the Federal government for 1000 acres of ground, north of the Arkansas River, which was owned by the citizens of Little Rock. The arsenal was turned over to the city with the stipulation that the grounds be "forever exclusively devoted to the uses and purposes of a public park."

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

American Guide Series, Arkansas, A Guide to the State, New York:
Hastings House, 1941.

Arkansas State Gazette, February 16, 1861

Albaugh, William A, III, and Simmons, Edward N., Confederate Arms,
Harrisburg, Pa.: Stackpole Company, 1957.

(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	0 0 0	0 0 0		34 0 44	92 0 15	
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0		18 0 0	45 0 0	
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Building only - Less than an acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Jack E. Porter, Administrator, Historic Preservation Program	
ORGANIZATION Arkansas Planning Commission	DATE 12/8/69
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

John M. Peterson
John M. Peterson

Title

Executive Director
Arkansas Planning Commission

Date

4/9/70

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Arkansas	
COUNTY Pulaski	
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9. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES CONT'D

Eison, James, "The Arsenal in Little Rock," The Pulaski County Historical Society Review, Vol. XVI, No. 2, (June 1968).

National Park Service, Historic American Buildings Survey Catalog, Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1941.

Thomas, David Y., Arkansas in War and Reconstruction, 1861 - 1874, Little Rock: United Daughters of the Confederacy, 1926.

Tunnard, William H., A Southern Record, The History of the Third Regiment, Louisiana Infantry, Baton Rouge: Printed for the Author, 1866.

War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Washington: 1880 - 1901, Series I, Vols. I, XIII.

