

NR listed 6/11/92

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: 19 *listed as YMCA-Democrat Bldg.* Congressional District: 2

Name: YMCA Building Current Owner: Arkansas Democrat

Address: East Capitol and Scott Streets

County: Pulaski Address: East Capitol & Scott Street

Architectural Information

Architectural Firm: Charles Thompson

Date of Construction: 1904 Stylistic Influence: Renaissance Revival

Original Use: YMCA Present Use: Newspaper Publishing

Geographical Information

UTM Reference: Acreage: less than one

Verbal Boundary Description:

Condition

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered
<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered
<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed	

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Code:Physical Description

The YMCA Building, constructed in 1904, is a commercial structure with three stories and a basement. The original design was in the Renaissance Revival style, which is still evident, although the building has been greatly altered, both on the interior and exterior. A 1974 renovation has rendered the facade monochromatic; however, early photographs reveal that the keystones, arches, window moldings and sills were all of a lighter, contrasting color than the brick wall surface. This made the Renaissance Revival detailing more distinguishable than it now is. The original cornice was removed in 1949 and the present stationary window panes were a product of the 1974 renovation. The principal facade, on Capitol Street, is divided into three bays with the center entry bay being recessed. On the upper levels, the projecting bays have "quoins" at each corner, produced by the brick formation. The "rustication" of the ground floor is also a product of the brickwork, done to resemble the rusticated base of an Italian Renaissance palace. (Originally both the "quoins" and the "rusticated" base were of a different brick color than the remaining wall surfaces.) All of the facade openings have prominent keystones. The entrance is emphasized by a triumphal arch motif, created by the large round arch doorway and smaller, flanking round headed windows. There is a string course which separates the third and attic floors and the attic level is decorated by modified medallions placed at the same intervals as the windows below.

Statement of Significance

Designed in 1904 by Sanders and Gibb, the YMCA Building is an example of Renaissance Revival architecture. Although the structure has been greatly altered, it is historically significant on both a state and local level. Its site was the original location of the territorial capitol and the building itself was the first YMCA facility constructed in Arkansas. Its current occupant, the Arkansas Democrat, is one of two Arkansas newspapers with statewide circulation. The Democrat moved into the building, which is the only extant structure associated with the newspaper's development, in 1930. The Democrat was founded as the Arkansas Evening Star circa 1871, and since that time has made a significant contribution to Arkansas history in the areas of journalism and communications. The Democrat is the second oldest newspaper in the state and its owner and editor from 1878-1902, Professor James Mitchell, was recognized as the state's most influential journalist. From 1926-1968 the newspaper was controlled by another prominent Arkansan, K. A. Engle.

