

*Desha County  
Arkansas City  
Pindall, Xenophon Overton, Law Office*

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NR LISTED  
MAY 10 1999  
AHPP

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Pindall, Xenophon Overton, Law Office

Other Name/Site Number: DE0003

2. Location

Street & Number: Corner of Capitol and Kate Adams Streets

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Arkansas City

Vicinity: N/A

State: AR County: Desha

Code: AR041

Zip Code: 71630

3. Classification

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: N/A



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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic: COMMERCIAL TRADE Sub: professional  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Current : VACANT/NOT IN USE Sub: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification:

Italianate  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials: foundation BRICK roof METAL, ASPHALT  
walls BRICK other WOOD  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

**Summary**

Located on the corner of Capitol and Kate Adams Streets in Arkansas City, Desha County, the Xenophon Overton Pindall Law Office is a single-story, red brick commercial building constructed around 1882 in the Italianate manner. The building is situated at the edge of a residential neighborhood, a few blocks away from what was once the thriving commercial district of Arkansas City. The Xenophon Overton Pindall Law Office is one of only six extant commercial buildings located in Arkansas City. Approximately \_\_\_\_ buildings have been destroyed.

Like other commercial buildings of the Italianate era, all of the windows and doors are capped by segmental arches. The bricks used in the construction of the building are reported to be made out of local clay. The building rests on a continuous foundation of brick and contains a partial basement. The X. O. Pindall Law Office is currently undergoing restoration. The original design of the front and rear porches has been reconstructed from historic photographs and examining the indications on the surrounding brick that note the size and shape of the supports. Although the interior is stripped of plaster, it retains all original window and door moldings, as well as a centrally located brick fireplace.

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**Elaboration**

The X. O. Pindall Law Office is a single-story, red brick commercial building constructed around 1882. The building rests on a continuous brick foundation with a partial basement. The fenestration of the entire building is composed of one-over-one, double-hung, wood windows capped by segmental brick arches. The windows and doors have a wooden infill above them to fill the space between the top of the rectangular windows and the segmental arches. Differing patterns of brick embellish the corniced parapets along the three principal elevations. The cornice rests on a plain frieze denoted by a double stringcourse. Above the frieze the cornice is composed of a decorative corbelled course of brick separated from the dentil course by another stringcourse. Concealed by the parapets is a flat tar roof. The reconstructed porches are covered by corrugated metal roofs with exposed rafter ends.

The front, or southeastern, elevation is dominated by a raised, hipped-roof porch supported by turned spindle posts. The posts are adorned with simple jigsaw ornaments. Connecting the posts are turned spindle balustrades. Eight wooden stairs, flanked by matching balustrades, lead up to this porch. The porch rests on a masonry pier foundation and has a wooden deck. Beneath the porch are a pair of windows with a single large segmental arch above them. Beside the windows the entrance to the building, which is a four-panel wood door topped by a single light transom and brick arch.

The side, or southwestern, elevation is fenestrated by four equally spaced one-over-one windows above two small wooden vents that are also capped by segmental arches.

The rear, or northwestern, elevation contains a porch, which unlike the front porch is raised on wooden piers and features a wooden staircase that runs parallel the elevation. It has simple square posts and is covered by a shed roof. Beneath the porch is one window next to the entrance.

The other side, or northeastern, elevation contains no windows, doors or cornice ornamentation.

There are no outbuildings associated with this property.

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**8. Statement of Significance**  
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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

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Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: c. 1882

Significant Dates: c. 1882

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

### Summary

The Xenphon Overton Pindall Law Office is being nominated to the National Register under Criterion C with local significance as an excellent example of a 1880s single-story commercial building constructed in the Italianate manner.

### Elaboration

In 1838, Desha County was formed from Arkansas County in the new state of Arkansas. The first county seat was at Napoleon, a river port located at the conflux of the Arkansas and Mississippi Rivers. Because Napoleon frequently flooded, the site was abandoned in the 1870s. The county seat was first moved to Chicot County in 1873, and in 1877 moved to its current location in Arkansas City. In the 1880s, when the X. O. Pindall Building was constructed, Arkansas City was the most populous community in Desha County, hosting a prosperous economy fueled by timber industry and river boat traffic.

The most recognized occupant of the building was Mr. Xenophon Overton Pindall. Mr. Pindall practiced law there as deputy prosecuting attorney before becoming Governor of Arkansas in 1907. Xenophon was the son of Lebbeus and Nora (Snell) Pindall. Born in Monroe County, Missouri he grew up in Arkansas where his father and uncle were well-known attorneys. He received his law degree in Little Rock and soon began the practice of law with his cousin in Arkansas City, in Desha County. He served as deputy prosecuting attorney. After being elected to the Arkansas State Senate in 1906, he was chosen to be its president *pro tempore*. Governor Little was forced to resign his office less than a month after his

inauguration, because of a physical and emotional breakdown. Senate president Moore served as acting governor from February 1907, until May of 1907, when Pindall took over governorship in his official duties as president of the Arkansas State Senate. Pindall's term expired in January of 1909. While acting governor, X. O. Pindall enacted a pure food and drug law, imposed a franchise tax on foreign corporations, and passed a measure designed to prevent price discrimination.

In addition to housing the Arkansas City Museum from the mid-1960s until the early 1990s, the building once served as office space for the levee board. The building is currently being restored with the help of a grant provided by the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. The present owner Robert Moore has also donated a conservation easement on the exterior of the building.

The X. O. Pindall Office is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under C with local significance and as an excellent example of an 1880s single-story Italianate commercial building.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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Information provided by Robert Moore. August, 1997 and October, 1997

*The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas.*  
Chicago Nashville and St. Louis: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1890.

Herndon, J. T. *The Annals of Arkansas.* Volume 1.

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 -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**  
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Acreage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing

|   |             |               |                |   |             |             |             |
|---|-------------|---------------|----------------|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| A | <u>15</u>   | <u>666720</u> | <u>3719730</u> | B | <u>    </u> | <u>    </u> | <u>    </u> |
| C | <u>    </u> | <u>    </u>   | <u>    </u>    | D | <u>    </u> | <u>    </u> | <u>    </u> |

Verbal Boundary Description:

That certain parts of Lots 13 and 14, Block 7, Original Town of Arkansas City described as follows: Beginning at a stake set at NW corner of Lot 14, thence parallel with First Avenue 60 feet, then toward the Mississippi River on line dividing Lots 13 and 12 of said Block, 60 feet westwardly parallel with First Avenue, 60 feet to eastern line of Third Street, to point of beginning, being lot of ground fronting 60 feet on Third Street and 60 feet on First Avenue, all in Arkansas City Original Town.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary contains all the structures associated with this property.

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**11. Form Prepared By**  
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Name/Title: Amy Bennett, Survey Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: April 23, 1998

Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

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